Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-182 *18 September 1992*

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Peru

Lima TV reports captured Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman "is feeling well" and in "good health." Alfredo Crespo Castillo, president of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, who met with Guzman, stated, Guzman "already considers himself a political prisoner, and that the process against him is political."

Madrid EFE reports a Dincote officer has stated, "Guzman willingly answers all questions" and although he "is skillful...we are getting something out of him indirectly." Guzman "admitted his arrest would cause confusion in Shining Path but added that the leadership would soon be reorganized 'and the revolution will continue forward.'" Reportedly, Guzman was given "a thorough medical examination at the police hospital. It was determined he is 'weak and sickly,' but..'extremely lucid.'"

Brazil

O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO issues the attorney general's "judgment" which states the materials presented in the case against President Collor "indicate the occurrence of criminal actions whose strong circumstantial evidence" shows the "perpetrator is his excellency, the president of the Republic." These actions, "represent crimes against public administration" and "it is possible...to hold the chief executive criminally liable for committing common crimes, notwithstanding the effectiveness of his presidential term of office." Only after "other proceedings" are carried out, including "hearing the indicted" in this case, will the Attorney General's Office be able to "reach a conclusion on filing or not filing charges against the president."

Brasilia radio reports Jose Lourenco, the government's deputy leader in the Chamber of Deputies, is "calm" regarding the voting on the impeachment request. The government situation is "comfortable," he noted, because it has "208 votes against the request currently underway in the Chamber of Deputies." Lourenco said he did not believe the request will be voted on "this month" and he also does not believe in "an open vote system" because the Federal Supreme Court is a "faithful interpreter of law and tradiiton."

El Salvador

San Salvador TV reports "the National Police discovered a large arsenal in what is reportedly a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] safehouse." Presidential Communications Secretary Ernesto Altschul stated, "this clearly and undeniably proves the FMLN's lack of political will. The FMLN claims conditions are not right for demobilization...."

Andean Pact Receives Loans Amounting to $85 Million

PA1509161292 Paris AFP in Spanish 1134 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Caracas, 14 Sep (AFP)—The Andean Development Corporation (CAF) granted Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela loans amounting to $85 million, CAF announced in Caracas.

The loan to Bolivia, in the amount of $25 million, is to contribute to the building of a road that will link Beni and La Paz Departments. Later, this road will be extended to the Peruvian border to allow access to the Peruvian port of Ilo.

Ecuador will receive two loans. The first, in the amount of $5 million, will be awarded to the Filabanco financial institution for a multisectoral loan program to small- and medium-sized industries, especially in the industrial, agro-industrial, fishing, and tourist areas.

The other $25 million is to finance in part a global multisectoral credit program in private enterprise activities "that are compatible with the policy of competitively integrating the country into international markets."

Colombia will receive nonreimbursable technical cooperation worth $500,000, intended for the Los Andes University, to help with the third stage of an investigation and training program to evaluate projects socially and economically.

In Venezuela's case, a $30 million loan will be granted to the Sudamtex enterprise to modernize and expand one of its textile plants.

CAF is the Andean Pact's financial arm. The Andean Pact comprises Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

Cuba

Raul Castro Meets With PRC Union Official

FL1709142892 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, has met with a PRC delegation at the headquarters of that institution. The delegation is headed by Ni Zhifu, the president of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. Ni Zhifu, who is also the vice president of the permanent committee of the National People's Congress and a member of the Central Committee of the CPC, conveyed greetings from the top political leadership of the PRC to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, as well as to the PCC and the Cuban people.

According to GRANMA newspaper, the Chinese leader was grateful for the opportunity to speak with the different Cuban labor groups. He underscored the importance of strengthening the relations of cooperation between the trade unions of the two countries to favor the workers' interests.

Strengthened Nuclear Safety Advisability Noted

FL1809011992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Cuba today expressed, in Vienna, its position on the advisability of having an international instrument for strengthening nuclear safety. Speaking at the last session of the meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Cuban delegation leader Andres Garcia de la Cruz said this should be put into effect on the basis of certain principles and criteria, above all respecting the idea that, in the last analysis, nuclear safety is the responsibility of each and every nation.

Pinar Del Rio May Mobilize 50,000 Workers

FL1709142592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The largest mobilization to agriculture organized in Pinar del Rio Province has begun with the arrival in the fields of the first students, workers, and officials who will participate in this mobilization. This effort will be focused on the coffee, tobacco, citrus, fruit, and vegetable crops and will be expanded starting in November until it reaches its climax in February, when it will be necessary to have more than 50,000 mobilized workers to handle the peak production period for those crops.

Lucio Bencomo, a member of the Central Committee and the Communist Party of Cuba bureau in Pinar del Rio, explained that these large mobilizations are primarily due to the scarcity of machinery, equipment, and herbicides, whose functions must now be taken over by men and women. Bencomo added that in general, more than 60 percent of the work with these crops will be done using animal power, and more than 30,000 ox teams will be used for this in the state, small farming, and cooperative sectors.

Steel Plant Annex Produces First Castings

FL1809011692 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The first steel castings at the Antillana [Steel Plant] Annex are being carried out with good quality. Thus, this facility, which was begun in Cuba in 1991, is operating. The plant is projected to produce 460,000 tons of steel annually, which will double steel production in Cuba.

Currently, Oven No. 1 has been started up. It produces raw steel which is sent to Antillana to be worked into billets. The metal produced by the electric ovens is of superior quality and does not directly use any oil. Note that the Martin Oil oven at the old Antillana mill consumes 120,000 tons of oil annually, in addition to the amount necessary to operate it each time.

Moreover, the use of ceramic bricks, which are so expensive but essential to metallurgy, has been reduced 10 times in this oven in comparison to the Martin oven. This facility, we must remember, has cost the country approximately 400 million pesos—a huge plant which will continue making progress with the installation of another oven, continuous casting machinery, and auxiliary plants until the project is completed.

'Pilot' Emulsion Plant's Results 'Satisfactory'

FL1809021292 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] An experimental emulsion plant of domestic crude oil is operating with satisfactory results in Matanzas Province. Nelson Barrera has the details.

[Barrera] The Varadero oil deposit, in the north of Matanzas Province and close to Varadero Beach, is the largest in the country. As is known, the oil extracted from there has a high degree of viscosity with a high level of sulfur, which makes it difficult and expensive to use as fuel in numerous domestic industries.

To counteract the negative characteristics of this carbide, a national technology has been developed, the result of a multidisciplinary team headed by Professor Miguel Delgado and involving numerous institutions and organizations of the country. A pilot plant is already operating on an experimental basis at the Central Drilling and Extraction Enterprise and has the capability to process 15 cubic meters per hour. In a word, the technology called emulsion consists of emulsifying 70 percent oil and 30 percent water, with the addition of an active agent developed in the country and also anticorrosive agents. To date, the results have been very encouraging.

The viscosity of the fuel has been reduced approximately six times and the sulfur concentration is diminished, making it easier and less expensive to handle and facilitating combustion. It has been satisfactorily tested in numerous kinds of pumps and pipes of different sizes. The mixture has a proven stability of up to 30 d. 's and they hope to increase it. Researchers continue working to establish optimum variables; the construction of a plant on an industrial scale is projected.

UJC Decides To Resume Work of UJ-6 Congress

FL1809015992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Union of Young Communists [UJC] feels that the current times require that the Sixth UJC Congress [UJ-Seis] continue. The UJ-6 is the UJC congress that just a year ago became known for being a congress in the streets, a congress in which the entire population participated. This continuation of the UJ-6 is to begin next January with the reopening of the 17 discussion centers in all the nation's provinces. Young delegates to the recent UJ-6, as well as young guests from each province, will participate in the discussions to be held. The fundamental purpose of the committees will be to evaluate how well the agreements reached at the UJ-6 have been carried out.

The calender for the discussion centers will coincide with the activities to be undertaken by the UJC to salute campaigns related to the topic under discussion.

Delegates and those invited to the discussion centers will stay at the homes of young people of the province; transportation will be by bicycle, as was the case during the UJ-6.

The food supply will be ensured by contributions from the centers located in each province; unconsumed items will be donated to educational centers, hospitals, child-care centers, and homes for the elderly.

Havana Comments on Internationalist Missions

FL1709161092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Commentary by Nestor Nunez]

[Text] There are revolutionary values that cannot be eliminated by anything, not even by the disaster that befell a way of building socialism and the disappointment that such a blow may have meant for some people. I am referring to internationalism. This is the principle by which a person can feel closer to his fellow men and be capable of any disinterested sacrifice in favor of anyone who may need his help.

Cubans can speak of this practice because the project we have carried out was nourished by it. Later, when we had the opportunity to do so, we developed it in terms very close to and even up to the limit of our maximum capabilities. Today, there is no question of our renouncing internationalism. On the contrary; among the moral values that we need to preserve is this feeling that makes us brothers to everyone, that leads us to acts of supreme generosity, and that we continue to feel towards many parts of the world.

Today, the development of international events—in other words, life itself—is setting our course and making things take different forms. If we are to speak of internationalism at this time, when all the hopes of everyone else's redemption seem lost, we must draw the conclusion that the primary internationalist duty of the Cuban people is to preserve, defend, and develop the revolution.

Saving the country and ensuring that the process survives implies saying to those who should redeem themselves that there is a way, that there is a real chance, and that the unipolar world which is being formed is difficult terrain but cannot put out a light that persists and that serves as an example as long as it does not allow itself be put out. This does not imply that we should abandon other internationalist missions but, undoubtedly, life demands that we keep up our flags and our hopes, and doing this at all costs is the most important task and duty that we could perform for anyone today.

Haiti

Political Leaders Take Stands on OAS Mission

FL1709194892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] A large part of the political class continues to reject the plan for the presence in Haiti of the OAS mission. The first part of the mission entered Port-au-Prince yesterday to a chorus of protestations and warnings. Reactions include that of former President Leslie Francois Manigat, who views the OAS civilian mission as a form of foreign occupation in the style of 1915. The following is a panorama of the various reactions the OAS civilian mission has evoked. Let us listen to Clarens Renois.

[Begin Renois recording] The least one can say is that there is no unanimity about this OAS mission. A large part of the Haitian political class has reservations as to the objective pursued through such a mission which, many say, is similar to a form of occupation. To protest the presence of the mission in Haiti, Haitian political leaders stress the humiliating character, to say the least, of such an operation. Apparently, they all want to make the consensus government led by Marc Bazin responsible (?for the coming of the OAS civilian mission). The first to react was former President Leslie Manigat, who warned against disavowing 1804 in order to get the embargo lifted, and international relations normalized, in an obsessive attempt to consolidate an ill-gotten power. Besides, Manigat perceives it as an another July

1915. What the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats most fears is an incident which might justify a military intervention (?under the pretext) of the safety of the civilian commissioners.

The Mobilization for National Development, MDN, of Hubert de Ronceray; the Haitian Party of God, PARADI, of Vladimir Jeanty; the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti [MODELH]; the formerly Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PRDH], MODELH-PRDH of Francois Latortue; and the National Cooperative Action Movement, MKN, of Volvick Remy Joseph, seem willing to request the parliament to give final decisions. To accept such a foreign civilian mission in the country without consulting the legislative body—even though the Army is responsible for the foreigners' safety and is not opposed to the arrival of the members of the OAS civilian mission—is out of the question.

Having entered into negotiations with the ousted president via his delegate, Antoine Adrien, the government of Marc Bazin has to face the first attacks of the political class that is publicly opposed to such a plan. It is also an occasion for the parties to give their opinion on the first three months of the government stemming from the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. The reproaches directed at Marc Bazin are due to his persistent willingness to negotiate with Aristide. On that score, Sylvan Jolibois of the Haitian Nationalist Party, PNH, believes those negotiations will amount to nothing concrete other than prolonging the suffering of the Haitian people. Hubert de Ronceray, who has a member of his party in the consensus, asks for general elections. Francois Latortue, Volvick Remy Joseph, Eddy Volel, and Reynold Georges demand, as do many others, the lifting of the embargo. In the middle of all these considerations and all this outcry, the first members of the civilian mission entered Port-au-Prince on 16, apparently without firearms in their luggage. They will soon go in pairs to the nine geographic departments in order to report on repression and contribute toward the respect of human rights and the distribution of the humanitarian aid granted to Haiti by the OAS. [end recording]

Narcotics Officials Protest Traffickers' Release

FL1709163392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Haitian anti-drug service officials have complained that justice officials have not been punishing any of those who have been arrested for drug trafficking in the country. According to Information and Joint Coordination Center [CICC] officials, a total of 750 people were arrested for drug trafficking over the past six years but none of those people are now in jail.

The antidrug officials further say that the most serious case is that of Mrs. Mimose Jeanty whom police arrested on 21 June 1989 in the Jeremie area. She was in possession of more than 800 kg of cocaine. CICC officials state that Mrs. Jeanty was supposed to spend five years in jail. Justice officials, however, released her after she had spent most of the time in a hospital in the capital. Haitian law provides for an imprisonment of five to 20 years for drug trafficking. Figures compiled by the CICC indicate that the justice department has never sentenced drug traffickers to more than five years' imprisonment.

In addition to the justice problem, a lack of equipment that could allow the authorities to control drug trafficking in Haiti has resulted in traffickers almost always coming to unload their goods in Haiti instead of going to Cuba or the Dominican Republic. A reliable source has advised that the Bazin government recently established a committee to work for an increase in the punishment against drug traffickers.

President Salinas Comments on Independence Day

PA1809025692 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The 182d anniversary of the start of the struggle for independence was celebrated throughout the Republic on 16 September. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made an important statement following the traditional military parade.

[Begin Salinas recording] Gentlemen of the media, you have participated with all the Mexican people in the great celebration of the anniversary of our independence, particularly in the 16 September ceremony on Constitution Square. The ceremony was characterized by joy, emotion, and popular participation. It was an exceptional celebration. Independence is a fact that Mexicans cannot forget. It is a struggle reasserted on a daily basis and, what is more important, independence and sovereignty have an essential value for Mexicans. That is why we will continue to sponsor their remembrance; reaffirm them on a daily basis; and feel proud of our most important historical actions, processes, and—without a doubt—the heroes of our homeland.

The military parade proved the discipline and courage of our Armed Forces, which are always ready to defend our nation's sovereignty and freedom. I congratulate the Mexican Army, Air Force, and Navy for their preparation, work, and loyalty. Those who witnessed the parade reasserted the fact that our Armed Forces have earned the Mexican people's affection and respect.

On a national level, it is appropriate to reiterate that we currently enjoy a complex, intense, and rich political life devoid of useless division and disputes. It is appropriate to emphasize that the most important political groups in the country share responsibility for our current situation. They must not sponsor national division or risk our peace and freedom. Hence, it is necessary to follow up the changes within political organizations that represent different groups and parties, because the creation of factions jeopardizes our national interests. The rejection of politics and the law as the best instruments for competition and conciliation also jeopardize those interests.

I reiterate that the party system can and must be strengthened to guarantee basic unity and the continuation of the political progress we have undoubtedly achieved. New political developments have been duly recognized. Let us now assume the responsibility of channeling them with political actions that reject old customs no longer wanted by Mexican society. Society is fully engaged in a political reorganization process that it has outlined and demanded.

We have certainly achieved progress concerning the new political laws demanded by our time and society. In fact, this process is also a result of government initiatives. We must strictly abide by the law and allow new, renewed systems for the new and different times experienced by our homeland and the world, so they may allow us to remain united according to the guidelines created by the changes we have implemented. The country is at peace, working, and striving for progress. We are all deeply proud to be Mexicans. Thank you. [end recording]

* Wave Reviews Chihuahua Electoral Process

92CA0203A Mexico City LA JORNADA (Perfil de LA JORNADA) in Spanish 1 Aug 92 pp II-III

[Text of abbreviated version of the "Report on the Electoral Oversight Carried Out by the Wave for Democracy" in Chihuahua, 18 July; bold text as published]

[Text] **Introduction**

We are a broad and diverse group of citizens, both men and women, from all walks of life in Chihuahua. Together we have struggled to give birth to the Wave for Democracy movement. We are a new social protagonist, and aside from our ideologies, affiliations, and membership in organizations, we are united by our strong desire to help civil society in Chihuahua grow and become strong, visible, and active in all of the processes that affect us. For us, democracy means, above all, a citizenry that is able to criticize, participate, and make proposals to the state, and to serve as a counterweight to it.

The electoral process that is almost completed is of the utmost interest to us as a citizens movement. We are convinced that the preparation, implementation, and conclusion of this process are not just the concern of the government and the political parties. We citizens must assimilate every part of the process and become protagonists in it. This is the only way to bring about a democratic transition in Mexico.

In view of that fact, we the participants in the Wave have committed ourselves wholeheartedly to the work of educating for democracy and observing the electoral process. In this effort we have always had the support of several national organizations with experience and representativeness in the civil oversight of elections: Convergence of Civil Organizations for Democracy, Citizens Movement for Democracy, and National Accord for Democracy. Other entities have sinced joined in.

I. The Wave's Preelection Work

Since the electoral process began, the participants in the Wave for Democracy have established a presence. We submitted our proposals for the new electoral law to the State Congress. When the law was passed, we studied it and expressed our opinion on it. We stated our views on whether or not the different parties used democratic methods to nominate their candidates. We held forums and debates to discuss the conditions for a democratic electoral process in Chihuahua. We met with the candidates and leaders of the main political parties, with election officials, people who shape public opinion, and ecclesiastical authorities. We maintained very close contact with various sectors of society to learn their points of

view: peasants, homemakers, young people, residents of *colonias* [urban communities], workers, professionals, and intellectuals.

Our work during this phase was more educational than anything else. In December, we began holding democracy workshops at which we studied our situation and reflected on what democracy means and what it demands here and now. We made contact with numerous groups, both rural and urban, and we began putting together the first segments of a network of organized citizens.

To respond to our basic question as to whether the conditions are right in Chihuahua for a truly democratic competition among the political parties, we studied the various components of the electoral process: the new State Electoral Law, the voter registry, and registration credentials. We also followed press coverage and compiled a chronology of the process. With the results of these studies, we wrote and released the First Report on the Electoral Process on 9 July. The report concluded:

1. The State Electoral Law is under the absolute control of the state executive branch and does not provide for any resources or forums specifically designed for the citizenry to file appeals, that is, electoral tribunals.
2. The voter registry and the registration process are still plagued by serious errors and falsehoods that call their reliability into question.
3. The state continues to support one of the political parties illegally and illegitimately, with huge amounts of financial, material, and human resources.
4. Citizens are still subjected to pressure and coercion through a variety of means to get them to vote for a particular party.
5. The political parties have been content with meager progress on these matters and have not responded to the citizens' mandate that they guarantee the proper conditions for a democratic life.

For all of the above reasons, the electoral process as a whole, despite some advances, still displays some serious intrinsic problems, and the illegal intervention of the state apparatus on behalf of one party makes any majority obtained by that party highly questionable.

II. Observation on Election Day

We set two basic objectives for our election day observation: to make a record of the anomalies or irregularities that occurred and to make a quick count to obtain a reasonably reliable approximation of the voting trends by no later than midnight. To achieve these objectives, we made intensive preparations: We held 80 training workshops in 16 of the state's 18 districts. The workshops were attended by 1,200 men and women. We designed two information-gathering forms and two support pamphlets for observers. We studied the electoral law in minute detail and learned from other observation experiences.

On Sunday 12 July, more than 450 Chihuahuan citizens and 25 compatriots from other states, members of the Convergence of Civic Organizations for Democracy, the National Accord for Democracy, the Citizen Movement for Democracy, the Council for Democracy, and the Young Initiative for Democracy, set to the task of observation. We covered the 18 districts in the state and 42 of the 67 municipal jurisdictions. We spread out to urban and rural voting booths, in the inner cities and on the outskirts of town, in residential neighborhoods of the middle class, as well as the poor.

Most of our comrades were treated with respect and were even encouraged by our fellow citizens and the voting booth officials, with a few exceptions: some observers were expelled from the vicinity of the voting booth or ejected from the place on orders from municipal authorities or the State Judicial Police. In General Trias, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) challenged three voting booths, claiming that three employees of the Opinion Profesional polling firm were members of the Wave; we categorically denied any connection with them.

II.1 The Quick Count

The quick count carried out by the Wave and the Council for Democracy was intended to reveal, before they were announced by election authorities, the results obtained from a statistical sample of voting booths with a small margin of error, to prevent any manipulation or alteration of the figures after the election. The list of the voting booths to be sampled was delivered well in advance, in a sealed envelope, to the bishop of Ciudad Juarez, Don Manuel Talamas Camandari, so that he could attest that the ballots were actually taken from the selected voting booths. The selection was made on the basis of a random, multistratified sample.

Given that they are not independent of each other, we released the results of the quick count at the same time as the first reports of irregularities observed during the day. This took place at 0100 on Monday 13 July. The results of the count in the gubernatorial election, released to the press, were the following:

Polling places included in the sample, 202; votes tallied, 64,000; votes for the National Action Party (PAN), 33,654 (52 percent); votes for the PRI, 26,230 (41 percent); votes for the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), 157 (0.24 percent); votes for the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), 751 (1.16 percent); votes for the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction (PFCRN), 200 (0.3 percent); votes for the Popular Defense Committee (CDP), 1,849 (2.85 percent).

It was noted that the margin of error in the sample is plus or minus 2 percent. So far, the results released by the State Electoral Commission (CEE) indicate that the trend announced by the Wave and the Council for Democracy is very close to the actual voting.

II.2 Irregularities Observed

This report sums up the results of 288 voting booths reported, out of more than 450 that were observed, and it provides a quite representative sample of what happened on 12 July. Here is a summary of that information:

Installation and opening of voting booths:

a) 46.18 percent of the voting booths were not set up until after 0830.

b) In 15.27 percent of the voting booths, the designated representative was observed signing the ballots slowly, making the process very time-consuming.

c) 10.76 percent of the voting booths were set up before 0800.

Election Materials:

a) At seven of the voting booths observed and reported, the list of eligible voters in the section was missing.

b) At 25.34 percent of the voting booths, there were more ballots than there were voters on the list of eligible voters.

c) At 16 voting booths (5.55 percent), there was no indelible ink.

Voting and Close of Voting:

a) At nine voting booths it was observed that bunches of ballots were stuffed into the ballot box.

b) At 33.33 percent of the voting booths, people were allowed to vote without showing their right thumb.

c) At 9.37 percent of the voting booths, people were allowed to vote even though their names did not appear on the list of eligible voters.

d) At 25 voting booths (8.68 percent), carousel voting was observed.

Shaving:

At 111 voting booths, 38.54 percent of those reported, people with registration credentials were not allowed to vote because their names were not on the list of eligible voters. The total number of people who could not vote was 463, equivalent to 4.17 individuals for every voting booth where this irregularity occurred.

Identification Credentials:

a) At 6.94 percent of the voting booths, people were allowed to vote without showing their voter registration credentials.

b) At 99 voting booths (34.37 percent), people were allowed to vote without identifying themselves.

c) At 127 voting booths (44.09 percent), voters showed up (1,018) who were supposed to vote at a different voting booth; the average was eight voters for every voting booth where the irregularity occurred.

d) At 29.5 percent of the voting booths, voters appeared with credentials that lacked signatures or fingerprints; the average was 11 voters for every voting booth where the anomaly occurred.

Violation of Secrecy or Coercion:

a) At 98 voting booths, 34.02 percent of the total reported, voting secrecy was violated, either because voters cast their ballots in plain view, or because someone was watching the voters mark their ballots.

b) At 18 voting booths, party campaigning in front of the voters was observed.

c) At 12 voting booths, coercion of voters was allowed.

Party Representatives and Voting Booth Officials:

At 19 voting booths, the election attendants carried out unauthorized functions.

Inspection and Counting of Ballots:

a) At 19 voting booths, it was not demonstrated to those present that the ballot box was empty after the ballots had been removed.

b) At 7.63 percent of the voting booths, it was not verified that the number of ballots removed was equal to the number of voters who had cast ballots.

The case of the municipal jurisdiction of Vaccinea deserves special mention. The PRI submitted to the State Electoral Commission the withdrawal of its candidate for municipal president, Hector Hernan Hernandez, the night of 10 July. The withdrawal was accepted, and the replacement PRI candidate, also accepted by the CEE, was Maclovio Burrillos Trivio. The Municipal Electoral Committee of Vaccinea was not notified of the candidate substitution until 14 July, however. On Saturday 11 July, despite his withdrawal from the race, Hernan Hernandez continued campaigning. Accompanied by the acting municipal president, Gabriel Hernandez, he announced on the local television network in the Francisco Sarabia *ejido* that he had not withdrawn and urged people to vote for him. On election day, the same man was observed distributing liquor to those who voted for him, 30 meters away from the voting booth in the town of San Jose y Anexas. The final result of the voting in Vaccinea, challenged by the PRD, was 1,345 votes for the PRI candidate for municipal president, 1,080 for the PRD candidate and 183 for the PAN candidate.

Conclusion

Although a climate of peace and tranquility prevailed on election day, it was characterized by numerous irregularities, as described above. Although these irregularities are not enough to invalidate the elections, except perhaps in the municipal jurisdiction of Vaccinea, they do

reveal that many shortcomings and deficiencies must be corrected and eliminated to make the electoral process clean, open, and reliable.

III. Conclusions

1. Under such unfavorable structural conditions, and with the limited opposition of the parties, the citizens of Chihuahua made a tremendous effort to express their will and to make sure it was respected, despite all the obstacles. Election day was characterized by strong and decisive citizen participation, in quantity as well as quality.

2. The maturity, strength, and participation of the citizens of Chihuahua on election day was the principal factor in assuring that voting rights were upheld and that the triumph of the opposition in the gubernatorial elections was acknowledged, in 11 out of the 18 electoral districts and in 13 out of the 67 municipal presidencies.

3. The observation of the electoral process, instigated by the Wave for Democracy and the national organizations that supported it proved to be not only a factor that inhibited and prevented fraud, but above all, a resource for civic education, organization, and mobilization of major sectors of the Chihuahua citizenry.

Appeals:

1. To the citizens of Chihuahua, the Wave for Democracy issues an appeal for to them to continue their effort to organize and participate, providing opportunities for the men and women of Chihuahua to criticize and oversee the exercise of government and to make proposals for the democratization of all the processes that affect them.

2. To the government elected on 12 July, we issue an invitation to legitimize itself continually through a democratic exercise of power and effective concern for meeting the basic demands of the Chihuahuan majorities; we invite it to expand the opportunities for free expression in the mass media and to be open to criticism and proposals.

3. To the government, the parties, and the citizenry of Chihuahua, we propose a comprehensive revision of the voter registry and the electoral process as a whole: the establishment of autonomous election agencies, mechanisms to guarantee the authorities' impartiality, campaign spending limits (including an annual external audit of all parties), and even-handedness and professionalism in election coverage by the media. And above all, a new electoral law that will put the electoral process in the hands of the citizenry and the parties.

4. To each and every Chihuahuan, we issue a call to devote the best of ourselves to building, day by day, a democracy in our state that is open to everyone, a democracy that will develop us as individuals, as communities, as living components of nature. A political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental democracy is the great task that we Chihuahuans and Mexicans face, so that we can bequeath it to our children. To carry out this beautiful task, the Wave for Democracy places the best of its efforts at the disposal of Chihuahua.

Chihuahua, Chih. 18 July 1992

* Wave for Democracy Statement on Michoacan

92CA0203B Mexico City LA JORNADA (Perfil de LA JORNADA) in Spanish 1 Aug 92 p III

[Text of "Communique Issued by the Wave for Democracy on the Michoacan Electoral Process," Chihuahua, 18 July]

[Text] At the same time that the citizens of Chihuahua observed the electoral process in that state, the citizens of Michoacan did the same in their state. We are familiar with the process and the results of their observation, and we endorse the conclusions they reached:

1. In a press bulletin issued prior to election day (11 June), the Michoacan and national observers of the Convergence of Civic Organizations for Democracy indicated that the electoral process had "irregularities that do not meet universal standards for clean, free, and impartial elections."
2. An analysis of the press in Michoacan yielded results that showed a clear bias in reporting on the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and its gubernatorial candidate. The fact that PRI mentioned the possibility of "violence" whenever it referred to the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), is significant.
3. The number of voters declined considerably between 1988 and 1992. This trend is especially evident in the municipal jurisdictions where the opposition has received the most votes. Voting for the opposition has declined in proportion to the decrease in the number of registered voters.
4. A special study of the biographies of voting booth officials in the district of Patzcuaro indicates that there is a tendency to "randomly select" PRI members for such posts in the *insaculacion* process [random selection through drawing].
5. On election day, 450 observers participated in 30 municipal jurisdictions throughout the state. They found irregularities at all stages and in all aspects of the elections, including voting booths without lists of eligible voters, voting booths with no indelible ink, voting booths where people were allowed to vote without showing their registration credentials, and others where voting secrecy was violated. Various carousels were found to be operating, and there is direct evidence of three of them. Written protests were not accepted; there were voting booths where no closing document was drawn up, and others where ballots were invalidated improperly.

6. The observers were welcomed by the citizenry, including members of all the parties, and the authorities treated them with respect.

The observers limited their activity to issuing an opinion on the conditions under which the electoral process took place; they never interfered in it.

The general conclusion of the organizations that participated in the election observations in Michoacan is that "although the balloting was conducted in peace and tranquility, the electoral process in Michoacan did not meet universal standards for clean and impartial elections."

The Wave for Democracy echoes this conclusion and shares it with the citizens of Chihuahua so that they can form their opinion and take a stand on what happened in Michoacan, in keeping with their civic maturity.

Chihuahua, Chih. 18 July 1992

* Convergence Reviews Michoacan Elections

92CA0203C Mexico City LA JORNADA (Perfil de LA JORNADA) in Spanish 1 Aug 92 pp IV-VII

[Text of "Report on the Electoral Oversight Carried Out by the Convergence of Civic Organizations for Democracy" in Michoacan, as summarized by the Mexican Human Rights Academy, undated; italicized text as published]

[Text] **Introduction**

The Convergence of Civic Organizations for Democracy is the manifestation of a great effort by the national citizens to build a new form of democracy. Convergence brings together 150 nonpartisan, nongovernmental, nonreligious Mexican civic associations that operate in 22 states in the Republic.

Since it was founded on 17 August 1990, it has focused on two major tasks: 1) to contribute to the construction of social and economic democracy in the various groups of the country's population, and 2) to make a contribution from civil society to the transition to a true political democracy.

For this purpose, it seeks to encourage citizen participation by promoting the creation of a new social protagonist capable of participating conscientiously in the process of electing government representatives.

This is why Convergence has decided to participate in the electoral process, seeking, on the one hand, to provide evidence of how it is developing in our country and, on the other hand, to contribute to a process of education that will help the citizens participate conscientiously in the election of their leaders.

Within this framework, an oversight process has been developed in various states of the Republic, such as San Luis Potosi, Tabasco, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, and the Federal District.

This report presents the oversight that Convergence made during the elections for governor and state congressmen in the State of Michoacan in July 1992.

The oversight took place in two stages: prior to election day, when it analyzed the context in which 108 contests would be held (voter registry, analysis of press and television, structure of voting booth officials in comparison with previous elections, illegal use of party and government resources, and violations of the State Electoral Law), and election day (identifying the number and type of the most frequent violations and 108 qualitative assessments by the observers themselves).

To carry out this work, Convergence joined efforts with institutions such as the Citizens Movement for Democracy, the National Accord for Democracy (Acude), the San Luis Potosi Civic Center, and Women Struggling for Democracy. FAPROP [expansion unknown] was put in charge of studying the voter registry, with consultation from Dr. Gomez Tagle.

The number of volunteers participating in this process was 500, of whom 50 belonged to the executive technical team and 450 were voting booth observers. It should be noted that 65 percent of the latter came from different states in the Republic (Chihuahua, Mexico State, Jalisco, Morelos, San Luis Potosi, Tabasco, Veracruz, and the Federal District), and the other 35 percent were from Michoacan.

The participants covered all of their expenses with small contributions from the institutions where they work and out of their own pocket. The operational costs of the technical team were paid from modest donations made by some member organizations of the Convergence and other sectors of the population.

The institutions participating under the aegis of the Convergence were: the Purepecha Producers Committee, the Alternative Health Support Center, Nature Life, professors and students of the University of Michoacan, the San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center, the Tabasco Human Rights Committee, the People, Home, and City Team, IMDEC [expansion unknown] of Jalisco, the Union of Working-Class Colonias, UPREZ [expansion unknown], UCISVER [expansion unknown], the Margarita Magon CAM [Mexican Agrarian Federation], and students from various universities: Iberoamerican University, University of Chapingo, Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and Colegio de Mexico (Colmex).

The observation process was directed by Michoacan organizations such as CEMIF [expansion unknown], INFORCA [expansion unknown], CESE [expansion unknown], VEDS [expansion unknown], and CESEM

[expansion unknown]; and from the rest of the country the participants were: the Mexican Human Rights Academy (AMDH), the National Center for Mass Media (Cencos), Liaison and Communication, Family and Society, the Development and Peace Service, the Antonio Montesinos Center, COPEVI [expansion unknown], DOAL [expansion unknown], FAPROP, CESEN [expansion unknown], SIPRO [Processed Information Services], and the Agustin PRO [expansion unknown] Center.

The Convergence observation took place at various voting booths in 11 electoral districts (I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XII, and XVIII).

The municipal jurisdictions involved were: Morelia, Tarimbaro, Cuitzeo, Santa Ana Maya, La Quemada, Villa Madero, Acuitzeo, Erongaricuaro, Patzcuaro, Quiroga, Salvador Escalante, Tzintzuntzan, Nomaran, Zamora, Santiago Tangaman, Uruapan, Puruandiro, Villa Morelos, Panindicuaro, Paracho, Huetamo, La Piedad, Tzitzio, Tacambaro, Apatzingan, Maravatio, and Cheran, among others. All told, 65 percent of the municipal jurisdictions in the state were covered. In this manner, 470 voting booths, strategically distributed throughout the state, were observed.

It is important to point out that for all of the analyses presented here, precise figures have been compiled, but they are not included here because of the nature of a summary of this type. Anyone who is interested in seeing them, however, may do so at the organizations mentioned above.

Election Statistics for Michoacan, 1988-1992

Based on the preelection study and the data compiled after the elections at the State Electoral Commission (CEE), an analysis has been made of the electoral context of 12 July 1992 in Michoacan.

The data available were at the local district level, so the analysis could not be done in any more detail. To conduct the analysis, the votes for state congressmen were used, since the 1989 election has the same characteristics. It should be noted that there is hardly any difference between the district votes for governor and those for state congressmen, although the gubernatorial election is slightly more polarized between the candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and that of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD).

Throughout the analysis, the total number of votes will be considered the total number of valid votes. Invalidated ballots were not treated the same in the different elections and might distort the information. From the general trends observed, it can be concluded that between 1989 and 1992, the number of registered voters declined in almost every local district. From 1991 to 1992, the number rose slightly, and there is a slight recovery of the opposition's influence in the final figures. In absolute terms, the National Action Party (PAN), the PRI, and the PRD all saw an increase the number of voters, but in percentage terms, the PAN and the PRD saw a decrease, while the voting for the PRI increased substantially.

The number of people voting for the PAN increased between 1989 and 1991, but the percentage did not, reaching only a minimal level. Between 1989 and 1992, the number of voters increased in almost every district except five; the districts for which Zamora, Zacapu, and Jiquilpan are the seats showed major losses.

The PRI, in contrast, saw increases in all local districts between 1989 and 1991, by as much as 72 percent in Districts I and II. Between 1991 and 1992 there was a significant decline. In the rural districts, the voter registry has shrunk, and voting for the PRI has increased considerably. In Districts I, VI, and IX, the increase or decrease in the voter registry bears no relation to the increase in voting for the PRI. On the other hand, in Districts III, IV, V, VII, VIII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, and XVIII, the decline in the voter registry is proportional to the increase in voting for the PRI. It is worth noting that Districts I, VI, and IX are predominantly urban, which suggests that there is a certain selectiveness in the shrinkage of the voter registry, especially in rural areas.

From 1991 to 1992 the only party that remained stable in the vote count is the PRD. There were no significant decreases in votes in any district, although there were no spectacular increases, either. Looking at the full period from 1989 to 1992, we can see that the number of voters casting ballots for the PAN rose by 9 percent (6,346 new votes), although the percentage of the vote fell from 11 to 8 percent of the total in each election. The PRI received 45 percent more votes (185,658 new votes) and went from 43 percent of the total in 1989 to 52 percent in 1992. The PRD received 22 percent more votes during that period (63,210 new votes), but its share of the total vote declined from 42 to 36 percent.

These figures show that as the voter registry declines and voter participation increases, a very large increase in the number of voters is required to have any impact on the final result. Moreover, there appears to be a certain selectiveness in the decline in the voter registry in rural areas.

Press Analysis

Between 13 June and 12 July 1992, a group of specialists who belong to the Convergence conducted an analysis of 1,414 newspaper reports concerning the state elections in Michoacan. The newspapers analyzed were LA VOZ DE MICHOACAN, EL SOL DE MORELIA, and BUEN DIA.

The information analyzed provides sufficient grounds to conclude that the three publications in question helped create an atmosphere that was not very propitious for conducting truly democratic elections. It has been shown that those who read these newspapers received overwhelmingly biased information about the contestants in the elections. The newspapers' coverage of the candidates was very unbalanced (tremendous differences can

be seen in the number of times the candidates were quoted in the newspapers, the number of times they appeared on the front page, and the number of pictures that appeared). In this regard, their coverage was markedly biased toward the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and its gubernatorial candidate, Eduardo Villasenor, to the detriment of the other parties and candidates in the opposition. Moreover, this hypothesis is strengthened if we include in the analysis the slant of the news reports in general, which were favorable to the PRI and negative toward the main opposition force in the state, the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). In addition to all of the above, the three newspapers contributed significantly to the ever more tense atmosphere that prevailed in Michoacan prior to the elections. Below are some figures compiled in the research (it is important to note that when we speak of margins or differences, we are referring, for purposes of simplification, to those between the PRI—which is always in first place—and its closest rival).

As for the number of times the most important personages were quoted in articles, interviews, reports, etc., the research reveals a clear tendency to favor the PRI and its gubernatorial candidate. The difference, in terms of parties, was nearly 3 to 1 between the PRI and the PRD; the margin between candidates is 4 to 1 between Villasenor (PRI) and Coca (PARM). (See Tables 1 and 2.)

Table 1. Who Was Quoted

	PRI	PAN	PRD	PFCRN	PARM	PPS
LA VOZ	223	39	82	45	17	6
EL SOL	711	18	41	20	14	3
BUEN DIA	79	12	27	24	15	4
Total	419	69	150	89	46	13

Table 2. Who Was Quoted

	Villasenor	Arias	Coca	Alanis	Estrada
LA VOZ	79	25	23	10	16
EL SOL	60	5	12	8	2
BUEN DIA	41	7	9	4	3
Total	180	37	44	22	21

This same trend can be seen when we look at the number of times each person appeared on the front page of the newspapers in question. Among parties, the PRI has a 3-to-1 advantage over the PRD, while among candidates, the ratio is 8-to-1, Villasenor over Alanis (Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction, PFCRN). (See Tables 3 and 4.)

Table 3. Front Page

	PRI	PAN	PRD	PFCRN	PARM
LA VOZ	14	6	8	4	4
EL SOL	12	2	3	2	4
BUEN DIA	18	1	5	1	3
Total	44	9	16	7	11

Table 4. Front Page

	Villasenor	Arias	Coca	Alanis	Estrada
LA VOZ	9	2	1	1	1
EL SOL	8	1	1	3	—
BUEN DIA	21	—	—	1	—
Total	38	3	2	5	1

There is an even greater imbalance when the graphic coverage (photographs, cartoons, etc.) of each person is analyzed. By party, the PRI was given five graphic images for every one devoted to any other party; and in terms of candidates, Villasenor was depicted six times more than any of his opponents (see Tables 5 and 6).

Table 5. Graphic Coverage

	PRI	PAN	PRD	PFCRN	PARM	PPS
LA VOZ	93	4	12	8	5	1
EL SOL	38	5	7	4	6	1
BUEN DIA	26	3	7	2	5	—
Total	157	12	26	14	16	2

Table 6. Graphic Coverage

	Villasenor	Arias	Coca	Alanis	Estrada
LA VOZ	54	5	12	3	2
EL SOL	40	—	5	2	1
BUEN DIA	19	5	3	1	1
Total	113	10	20	6	4

A content analysis also makes it possible to determine whether the treatment is positive or negative (this is done when a qualifying adjective is grammatically linked to the individual in question). Postive adjectives include terms such as "irreproachable," "warm," "prosperous," "noble," and "beneficial." Negative ones include "bad," "dreadful," "harmful," "aggressive," or "pernicious." Along these lines, it can be seen that the treatment accorded the PRI is very favorable, while the principal opposition force in the state, the PRD, is treated very negatively (Tables 7 and 8 [as published]).

Table 7. Negative Coverage

	PRI	PAN	PRD	PFCRN	PARM	PPS
LA VOZ	9	1	51	—	—	—
EL SOL	6	3	43	1	2	1
BUEN DIA	4	2	40	2	2	—
Total	19	6	134	3	4	1

In the Michoacan elections, there was frequent mention of the possibility that the opposition party might engage in violence that would be very destructive to society. The content analysis confirms that this element was present during the period analyzed. As Table 9 [as published] shows, the number of speeches in which the word "violence" was uttered is impressive.

Table 8. Frequency of Use of the Term "Violence" in Speeches

	Number of times term was used	Number of speeches in which term was used (from 1 to 9 times)
PRI	118	66
PAN	30	14
PRD	75	19
PFCRN	35	17
PARM	19	7
PPS	4	2
State Government	4	3
Church	3	3
Nongovernment Organizations	74	36
Journalists	9	5
Foreign Observers	20	6
Villasenor	65	40
Arias	16	8
Coca	8	6
Alanis	14	7
Estrada	19	7

In view of the above, we concluded that the newspapers LA VOZ DE MICHOACAN, EL SOL DE MORELIA, and BUEN DIA did not adhere to the canons that should govern the news media in carrying out their functions: neutrality and objectivity in reporting.

Other Significant Studies: Biography of Voting Booth Officials

The Convergence also conducted an analysis of voting booth officials, based on a study of biographies and on interviews. The study took place in six out of the seven municipal jurisdictions that make up District II in the

state (the information was gathered at 116 voting booths, representing 90 percent of the total in the district; the only municipal jurisdiction not studied was Salvador Escalante). Thus, links were sought between the voting booth officials and the parties, and we discovered a strong trend toward officials who were closely associated with or members of the PRI. Here are the figures:

Function	PRI	PRD	PAN	None
President	97	9	—	10
Secretary	84	10	—	22
Inspector 1	68	33	3	17
Inspector 2	48	28	3	37
Totals	292	80	6	86

Based on these studies, we have been able to reach certain conclusions. On the one hand, there are statistics that indicate, at least in this district, that the majority of the people who give the training courses for voting booth officials now have or in the past have had close ties to the PRI. On the other hand, in some cases the officials are biased toward the PRI because of the strong presence of people who belong to or are associated with that party. Therefore, it is highly likely that the decisions made by the executive boards regarding points of conflict are influenced in large measure by the position taken by the PRI officials at the voting booths.

Use of Federal and State Resources in Michoacan Elections

Two important conclusions can be drawn from a study of the use of federal and state resources: 1) It is undeniable that the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) has distorted the political game. Due to the close ties between the Institutional Revolutionary Party and the government, it is almost impossible to distinguish between the two. Thus, in just three years, federal government spending on Michoacan social development went from 1 trillion pesos in 1989 to 5 trillion pesos in 1992 (to give us an idea, 5 trillion pesos is what Pronasol has budgeted for all 32 states in the Republic in 1992).

Nevertheless, it appears that the problem has not been the pouring of resources into one of the country's three poorest states—which doubtless needs them—but both the obvious and more subtle ways in which they are distributed with an eye to the elections, giving the resources to those belonging to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) or giving them in exchange for votes for that party. In preparing for our election oversight, we took testimony from hundreds of persons on the use of federal and state resources. We can group the complaints into five major categories:

1. The withholding and delaying of federal moneys to municipalities governed by the opposition, causing a deterioration in municipal authority and a loss of prestige by the municipal governments;
2. In contrast, preferential and high-priority treatment of projects by members of the PRI;
3. The offering of tortilla vouchers, milk, food packets, road repairs, and the provision of other services in exchange for voting for the PRI;
4. An entire corporate mechanism that ensures PRI votes from taxi drivers, Federal Electricity Commission workers, and members of the Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants (CROC) and the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM); and
5. The approval of certain concessions in exchange for votes.

Opinion of State Electoral Law of Michoacan

The recent reform of 30 December 1991, given the broad scope of its articles, has given rise to a new law that also shows some progress. Like its predecessor, however, it does not guarantee a completely reliable election process or results.

The integration of the electoral mechanisms, for example, is not free of the ills that characterized them in the past. The appointment of most officials to the State Electoral Commission is still done by two branches of government, the executive and the legislative, both of which are controlled by the same party. Therefore, there are no guarantees that there will be a truly independent representation of the citizenry or effective control of the elections by the parties and by civil society.

Furthermore, the requirements for annulling an election are excessively stringent: The ballots from 50 percent of the voting booths must be declared void, or there must be a finding of "widespread violence" in a municipal jurisdiction or electoral district.

In short, the Political Constitution of the State and the Electoral Law show formal progress on electoral matters, but in the context of a single-party regime, it is evident that the government exerts unilateral control over every aspect of the process, from the appointment of electoral bodies to the certification of elections. And to top it all off, in keeping with the policy that prevails at the federal level, Article 21, Section IV, Paragraph c of the Constitution adopts the governability clause that ensures an absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies for the party that wins 35 percent of the state vote and nine or more certificates of majority.

Thus, the interests of the parties in general, and specifically those of the ruling party, are placed above the interests and the vote of the citizens.

Statistical Analysis

On 12 July 1992, 500 Mexican observers and a similar number of international observers participated in the Michoacan elections. This event was the culmination of an effort that had begun in our country a few years earlier. The observers followed the pattern established by observers in our country and abroad. We believe that the results, though they have raised some controversy,

were extremely positive. The oversight covered all aspects of election day, and in this section we present the results obtained.

1. Acceptance of Observers

Despite the efforts of the regional press and certain authorities to discredit and intimidate them, the observers were able to carry out their work as planned. The people who came to vote, as well as the majority of the voting booth officials and representatives, accepted the observers' presence. Thus, at 85 percent of the voting booths observed, they were allowed to remain inside. They they were not allowed inside at only 15 percent of the booths, although they were not prevented from observing the process closely.

It should be noted, however, that there were a few incidents of threats, complaints, and ejection of observers. For example, at Voting Booth 83B in North Morelia, coordinators of the ruling party removed the observer and put him in a place where he could not see clearly what was happening at the voting booth. Also, at Voting Booths 68B and 68C, Mario Augusto Tirado Lopez, who claimed to be from the CEE, harassed the observers who were there.

It is important to mention the contradictory attitude of some parties (chiefly the PRI and the Popular Socialist Party), which before the election clearly condemned the presence of observers and, afterwards, relied on them to legitimate their claims to victory. There is no doubt that, although this shows a lack of political maturity, the observers suited their needs because there was an implicit recognition of the observers' importance to the political process.

2. Installation and Opening of Voting Booths

In just about half the voting booths observed (46 percent), the polls did not open at the time set by the State Electoral Law (LEE). It was also noteworthy that at 11 percent of the voting booths, the appropriate Certificate of Installation was not drawn up. These irregularities violate Articles 124 and 127 of the LEE.

More important is the fact that the number of ballots did not match the total number of voters appearing on the list of eligible voters. At 33.5 percent of the voting booths, there were fewer ballots available than there were voters, and at 17 percent there were more ballots. It was also noted that 13 percent of the voting booths lacked the certificates, approved forms, or clerical implements, and there was no list of party commissioners at 10 percent of the booths. Other anomalies, seen less frequently, included missing lists of eligible voters, indelible ink, and transparent ballot boxes.

3. Balloting and Close of Polls

A) Procedure

At 33 percent of the voting booths observed, the secretary failed to read aloud the name of the voter (LEE Article 29); people were allowed to vote without showing their voter registration credentials at 14 percent of the voting booths (LEE Article 128); at 11 percent of the voting booths, officials failed to put indelible ink on the voters' thumbs, and there were cases in which the ink was not actually indelible; and people whose names did not appear on the list of eligible voters were allowed to vote anyway. Other anomalies recorded included the failure to note on the list of eligible voters the fact that a voter had cast his ballot, the failure to punch the voter registration credential, and allowing voters to cast unauthorized ballots.

At a quarter of the voting booths observed, more than the legally authorized number of voters were allowed to be present at a time, even when the tally was taking place. In addition, 10 percent of the voting took place in conditions of disorder (LEE Article 137). Less often, there were instances of armed or intoxicated voters.

B) Free and Secret Balloting

The right to vote freely and secretly was also violated in this process. At approximately a fifth of the voting booths observed, balloting secrecy was violated. The most frequent defects were direct observation of the balloting (56 percent) and voting without privacy (26 percent).

Coercion to vote a certain way was seen at 18 percent of the voting booths observed. These violations were committed by members of the executive board, party representatives, or the so-called vote promoters. Once again, it should be pointed out that it was people linked in one way or another to the PRI who were observed to be engaging in these illicit practices.

C) Party Representatives

As predicted, no party managed to send representatives to every voting booth. The parties that came the closest were the PRI and the PRD. At 200 voting booths observed, the PRI and the PRD were present at 85 to 90 percent. The other parties had representatives at far fewer voting booths.

On the other hand, there were instances when party representatives were barred from voting booths with no justification whatsoever; the written protests provided for in the LEE in case of disagreement with some procedure on election day were not accepted; and in certain cases, the copy of the appropriate certificate was not turned over (LEE Articles 118 and 138). Moreover, contrary to the provisions of the law, in the majority of cases the PRI voting booth representatives were observed to be the same people as had been present at the previous election (LEE Articles 135 and 137).

Although there was no quantification, the observers noted that some voting booth representatives, primarily those of the opposition, were not sufficiently trained and were unfamiliar with the regulations and laws governing

balloting. Thus, many anomalies and violations occurred without the appropriate complaint being lodged.

D) Carousels

At a fifth of the voting booths observed, voters were seen arriving in taxis, pickup trucks, or vans to vote. At another 20 percent of the voting booths observed, people were seen arriving in groups to vote.

Although this long-standing practice does not, strictly speaking, violate the LEE, it is included here because it presupposes inducement to vote and it overshadows the electoral climate. Fifty-three possible cases of carousel voting were recorded, three of which were documented in the City of Morelia, where a single vehicle transported groups of voters to at least two voting booths. The three vehicles involved were a white minibus, license number PNY118 Morelia, Voting Booths 64B and 65A; a red pickup, license number MNA347 Morelia, Voting Booths 13B and 12; and a taxi, license number LEA16 Morelia, Voting Booths 36B and 44B.

Our mobile teams documented the manner in which the operation was carried out: Vehicles would go back and forth from the El Rialito *colonia* in District I, Morelia, taking people to the polls. The people would get out a block or two away from the voting booth and would go to vote one by one. Then they would return to their *colonia*. The pickup with license number MU28925, bearing the logo of the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction (PFCRN), followed this practice, transporting about 10 people to vote at Voting Booths 72B and 72C at the Manuel Herrejon Patino School.

E) Shaving the Voter Registry Observers also noted that at 25 percent of the voting booths, the voter registry had been shaved off. The voters whose names did not appear on the list of eligible voters (also 25 percent) were forced to go to other voting booths several kilometers away, in most cases, to determine whether they were on another list. Others, discouraged by the fact that they were not on the list or that their polling place had been changed at the last minute, abstained from voting.

4. Examination and Counting of Ballots

In 10 percent of the cases, there was no corroboration that the number of ballots removed from the boxes matched the number of people who had actually voted. In the same percentage of cases, officials failed to count the ballots one by one and announce out loud which party had won. In addition, ballots were voided without justification; surplus ballots were not numbered or canceled, and officials did not demonstrate that the ballot box was empty and failed to display the results in a visible place (LEE Articles 141, 141-I, 141-III, 141-IV, 141-V, 142, and 143).

5. Other Irregularities

At Voting Booth 006B in Santa Ana Maya, the president, the secretary, and another individual named Rafael Zavala told 60 people how they should vote and informed them that that evening they could come by and collect their money and a food packet. In another case, at Voting Booth 12C in North Morelia, groups of voters were observed receiving gifts, food, and beverages in exchange for voting for the PRI.

At Voting Booths 50B and 50C in the municipal jurisdiction of Uruapan, the PAN representatives submitted three protest documents that were refused. In addition, they and the PRD representative were assaulted by the voting booth secretary. It should also be noted that at Voting Booth 24C in North Morelia, the National Action representative was not allowed to see the voter registry that was used on election day.

An indispensable requirement for our transition to democracy is that the opposition parties be allowed to play an active role in defense of the electoral law. In this regard, we find it especially disturbing that a high percentage of voting booth representatives of the main opposition party in Michoacan (the PRD) were inadequately trained.

Another alarming problem is the high rate of illiteracy in the country, which was particularly evident in the rural areas of Michoacan. This problem manifests itself in a variety of ways during elections. For one thing, illiteracy is one of the principal factors impeding balloting secrecy.

As we mentioned earlier, at 56 percent of the voting booths observed, this principle was violated, in some cases for deceitful purposes. Most of the time the pretext, a justifiable one, was that the voter could not read, did not understand the format of the ballot, or did not know how to vote. On the other hand, this context made it possible to commit other serious irregularities, such as inducing people to vote a certain way. We cite here just a few cases, such as that of Voting Booth 006B in the town of Santa Ana Maya. At that place, the wives of voting booth officials brought in groups of six to eight people to vote, told them to mark the box corresponding to the PRI, and threatened to take away their land rights if they did not obey.

In the municipal jurisdiction of Uruapan, at Voting Booths 68B and 68C, people at the partitions were telling citizens what party to vote for. In the case of Voting Booth 13 in South Morelia, Mr. Horacio Arredia Velazquez arrived at 1437, identified himself as a representative of the PRI, and ordered the voting booth president to allow the people accompanying him to vote. The president did so, and ineligible people voted. The electoral process may be as legal and correct as can be, but it will never be representative if people do not know or understand whom they are voting for.

Another type of problem to which we would like to draw attention is the presence of armed individuals, which leads to veiled intimidation. An example of such cases occurred at Voting Booths 38B and 38C in the municipal jurisdiction of Uruapan, where security guards were allowed to vote as a group, even though their names were

not on the list of eligible voters. These people were traveling in Public Security Patrol Unit 92.

In this connection, we believe it is particularly important to note the case of Voting Booth 152 in North Morelia, where a former judicial policeman, released from jail two days prior to the election, verbally assaulted an American reporter from THE NEW YORK TIMES, Paul Sherman, in a violent manner on 12 July. The assailant left the scene in a radio taxi from the Tarase station.

We consider the theft of ballot boxes a serious offense. The Mexican observers recorded several incidences of this. One occurred at Voting Booth 06B in Santa Ana Maya, when two individuals, Efrain Hernandez Calderon and Gerardo Chavez Sisumo, who were not voting booth officials, took the ballot boxes and did not allow party representatives to accompany them. Also, at Voting Booth 04B in North Morelia, Veronica Guzman Talavera claimed to be authorized by the CEE to pick up the ballot boxes at the close of voting and took the electoral packet with her. The ballot boxes were transported in a pickup truck, license number MF0883, in violation of the legal procedure for election day.

As far as ballots are concerned, the most arresting case was that of Voting Booth 65C in North Morelia, where the PRD representative was not allowed to sign the final certificate because he had complained about 87 ballots that were not recorded on the voter registry and were deposited in the ballot boxes. Another example occurred in South Morelia, at Voting Booth 077, also in District I, where there was a shortage of ballots. The voting booth officials turned to the CEE, which did not want to provide the necessary materials. As a result, 75 people returned home without having been able to exercise their right to vote.

The latter incident, as well as several others cited in the text, lead to the conclusion that the entities charged with creating and monitoring the mechanisms necessary to conduct free elections are not autonomous and, therefore, cannot function properly. Following this pattern of conduct, at Voting Booth 98B, District I, in Eastern Morelia, a commission representative declared the polls open so hastily that it was not possible to inspect the material. Consequently, it was not until the close of voting that it was discovered that the number of ballots did not match the number of names on the list of eligible voters. Unfortunately, that was not an isolated incident. Similar incidents were reported at Voting Booths 006B in Santa Ana Maya; 40C and 42B in Uruapan; 22B in North Morelia; 154B, 41B, 44B, 46B, and 47B in Eastern Morelia; 26C, 68B, and 68C in Western Morelia; 04B in Patzcuaro; and 001 in Eronguaricuaro, also in the municipal jurisdiction of Patzcuaro.

There were other cases in which the police participated directly in the balloting. For example, at Voting Booths 91B and 91C, two on-duty police officers were allowed to vote, and at Voting Booths 86B and 86C, other police officers were present for several hours, chatting with voting booth officials. Finally, the representative of the PRD, Uriel Lopez Paredes, was arrested after protesting the appointment of officials under what he considered false pretenses. In North Morelia, armed individuals were seen in a pickup truck belonging to the state police, and at Voting Booth 89B, Police Officer Jose Francisco Magana Melchor voted without presenting his credentials. At Voting Booth 44B, armed personnel were allowed to vote without showing their voter registration credentials. In Western Morelia, at Voting Booth 160B four police officers were allowed to vote even though they did not belong in that section. In Patzcuaro, at Voting Booth 004B, Mr. Ornelas Garcia Robert, a member of the Municipal Office of Public Security, was allowed to vote even though he was carrying a weapon. This individual argued that he should be allowed to vote and noted that he was on duty at the time.

Impact of Civil Observation on Electoral Processes

The participation of the Convergence of Civic Organizations for Democracy in the oversight of the most recent elections, particularly in Michoacan, has taught a number of lessons. It has proven the hypothesis that only a growing commitment by civil society will ensure that the popular will is respected.

The Convergence's ability to call upon members of civil society to participate in the oversight of elections in Michoacan reflects at least two factors: first, the conviction that the election of our leaders is something for the people to decide, not just a private matter for the political parties, and second, it shows that the country is entering a new era, a time when the political culture of passiveness and indifference to national events is changing. It reveals that the Mexican people, particularly those who have been fighting in an organized manner for two decades to press their most urgent demands, understand that they can have an impact on politics.

The presence of 500 observers at the Michoacan elections was decisive. Most of the people treated the observers kindly and respectfully; the local, national, and international press accepted their word and they were able to act as spokesmen and announce the irregularities and violations that occurred. In some cases, their presence even prevented or restrained violations at some voting booths.

The oversight promoted and organized by the Convergence involved a great effort on the part of all of the centers that convened participants. The observers were trained, the preelection situation was researched and analyzed, the operation was planned and organized to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and resources would be available, and finally, the oversight took place with great success. This means that the training and experience of the center personnel were used to full advantage in order to provide a timely response and meet the established objectives. In this regard, it is evident that if the citizenry is to participate decisively in

these processes, it must be aware of its rights and obligations and must discover and devise mechanisms to defend them.

We have just begun. We are aware that there is still a long way to go and that the Convergence is merely the organized instigator of an effort that many will soon join because it has proven its usefulness.

The transition to democracy in our country has been shown to be neither easy nor mechanical. It demands effort and participation on the part of the entire civil society, and it is this conviction that has motivated the Convergence in conducting the observation of the balloting.

Conclusions

After three months of research leading up to 12 July, and after the election day oversight, the 500 citizen observers of the Michoacan elections can now say that we face a well-planned, complex, and extremely costly government electoral policy that is characterized by the following features:

1. It would appear that the strategy was devised in the center of the country and coordinated through the National Executive Committee of the PRI.

2. By agreement between the Federal Electoral Institute and the State Electoral Commission of Michoacan, the same voter registry was used for the 12 July elections as had been used in 1991, and as we demonstrated amply in our research, it embodies a notable drop in the number of voters in comparison to the 1988 registry, especially in those areas where the opposition had found its greatest support in previous elections.

3. There was selective delivery of credentials: more than 100 percent were received in some areas where the PRI has the greatest influence, while fewer than 70 percent received them in areas providing the opposition its greatest support.

4. An extremely high percentage of officials were selected from the PRI, nearly 100 percent in the voting booths of Huetamo, 80 percent in Patzcuaro; the same officials that were present in 1991 were used again, although in some cases they had different posts.

5. The media coverage was systematically unilateral, particularly on Michoacan television and in the daily newspapers of the state, favoring the PRI candidate and constantly making negative references to the PRD candidate.

6. Hundreds of witnesses testified that the resources of the Pronasol and the state government secretariats were used to strengthen the PRI's position and to induce people to vote for that party.

7. The PRI launched an extremely expensive effort to induce people to vote for it, organizing 7,200 vote promoters who each took about 10 citizens to the polls to cast ballots for that party.

These seven measures, which amount to a policy carried out with abundant government and party resources, made the 12 June [as published] elections a severely unequal battle between the opposition and the government, rather than a democratic contest among parties.

In addition to these conditions, our observers reported serious irregularities on election day: a high incidence of PRI representatives, voting booth officials, and vote promoters coercing voters to cast their ballots for the PRI. In District I, whose seat is Morelia, many members of the CEE blatantly took orders from the PRI in carrying out their functions on election day.

The sum total of the data gathered prior to election day and the oversight of election day itself bring us to the conclusion that the elections held in the State of Michoacan fell far short of compliance with electoral regulations and with the conditions of impartiality, cleanliness, and legality that should prevail in democratic electoral processes.

Costa Rica

Former Venezuelan Leader's Wife Granted Asylum

PA1709132592 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Costa Rican Justice Ministry has recommended granting asylum to the wife of former Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi after deeming there exist doubts that Mrs. Blanca Ibanez would only be tried for common crimes.

Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said the asylum was granted based on Costa Rican tradition and based on recommendations by the Justice Ministry, a benefit that was made effective with a resolution issued on 29 August.

Former President Jaime Lusinchi's wife requested asylum at the Foreign Ministry on 3 August and normal procedures in these cases were followed, Niehaus said.

Ambassador Resigns

PA1709130292 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The resignation of Julio Sunol, Costa Rican ambassador to Venezuela, was confirmed on the afternoon of 16 September by Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, who said he had received the proper notification.

According to reports, Sunol resigned because he disagrees with the resolution issued by the government of President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier granting political asylum to the wife of former Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

Sunol was appointed ambassador to Caracas in May 1990 and will leave his post soon because his resignation is irrevocable.

El Salvador

FMLN Wants Peace Zones in Honduran Territory

PA1709123092 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Sep 92 p 3

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] asked the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments on 14 September to establish "peace zones" in the areas that are now part of Honduran territory, based on the International Court of Justice ruling, instead of militarizing them.

Antonio Alvarez, member of the FMLN's Agrarian Commission, stated his concern about the future of those who now live in the so-called "disputed border areas" because they cooperated with the guerrilla forces during the civil war, which ended this year.

Alvarez said their economic rights and social, cultural, and political culture must be respected. The important thing is those zones, where approximately 10,000 Salvadorans currently live, must not be militarized to prevent confrontations, the FMLN leader said.

Another point that must be taken into consideration by the Honduran Government or the binational commission is that land ownership must be respected. "We believe this is the source of the people's economic support and they are developing their own projects there."

"We ask Honduras not to militarize those areas," Alvarez stated. He also asked ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] to deploy personnel and guarantee the zones will not be militarized.

Furthermore, Alvarez believes the FMLN should be included in the binational commission because it has maintained close ties with the people living in the disputed border areas which are now part of Honduran territory. He also said the FMLN should participate in the commission "because the communities do not feel represented by the Salvadoran Government."

General Opposes Deferment of FMLN Demobilization

PA1709165592 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce said on 16 September that the Armed Forces will not agree to a deferment of the date for the total demobilization of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

[Begin Gen. Ponce recording] I believe it is unacceptable to speak of deferring the date. [end recording]

As far as the Armed Forces is concerned, 31 October is still the deadline for the FMLN to end its military structure. The FMLN pledged to fulfill this deadline; thus a deferment, according to Ponce, is not accepted either by the Army or other sectors of society.

[Begin Ponce recording] In fact, 31 October is the deadline for the FMLN's disarmament and demobilization. The FMLN pledged to do this and I believe it would be a slight on that organization's part not to fulfill the hopes of a people who really want peace and to insist on deferring a date the FMLN itself upheld at the meetings to reform the calendar. [end recording]

In Gen. Ponce's opinion, the Armed Forces are still fulfilling the rescheduled points, but he questioned the FMLN.

[Begin Ponce recording] The (?concentration) has been completed but the weapons inventory has not been updated. Regarding the obligatory disarmament, we are waiting for the FMLN to demobilize the second 20 percent on 21 September. We will see if they fulfill this agreement. I have heard certain public FMLN statements in which they say they will not. [end recording]

The ranking military leader participated in the event marking the demobilization of the Ramon Belloso Rapid Deployment Battalion, an elite corps which, according to the calendar, was scheduled for dissolution on 16 September.

Police Reportedly Locate FMLN Weapons Cache

PA1809042792 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by Sonia Lopez]

[Text] On the evening of 16 September, the National Police discovered a large arsenal in what is reportedly a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] safe house located on 75th North Avenue and A Street in San Antonio Abad.

Presidential Communications Secretary Ernesto Altschul said this proves the FMLN's lack of political will to meet the peace accords.

[Begin Altschul recording] The truth is that this clearly and undeniably proves the FMLN's lack of political will. The FMLN claims conditions are not right for demobilization and we continue to find weapons FMLN members have hidden. We again ask the FMLN: What do you want these weapons for? Their weapons have not been found at the different gathering points. Why does the FMLN refuse to demobilize its front-line fighters? We think the discovery of these weapons represents further proof of the FMLN's lack of political will; it clearly shows the Salvadoran people the government has fulfilled 100 percent of the new timetable, while the FMLN fails to do so and continues to hide weapons. [end recording]

Dr. Altschul said the weapons discovered by the National Police resemble war material used by the FMLN during the armed conflict.

[Begin Altschul recording] In general terms, we have 2,280 rounds for AK47 rifles; 1,597 rounds for M16 rifles; 22 ammunition clips for AK47 rifles; 1 ammunition clip for a Galil rifle; 8 AK47 rifles; 1 Dragunov rifle; 1 Steyr submachine guns; 15 40-mm rounds; 6 RPG-7 rounds; 5 RPG-7 grenades; 6 RPG-18 grenades—the new ones; 140 rounds for Dragunov rifles; 5 Russian hand grenades; 15 pounds of dynamite; 5 ammunition clips for Dragunov rifles; 1 wig; 1 telescopic sight; and one jar of marijuana. [end recording]

The official issued an appeal to the FMLN, urging it to comply with the peace accords signed in Mexico and to demobilize the second 20 percent of its forces as soon as possible—to prove its political will.

Guatemala

Commission Reduces Military Service Length

PA1709163892 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Sep 92 p 7

[Text] The congressional Defense Commission has reduced the length of military service in times of peace for all Guatemalan youths between the ages 18 and 26 to "18 months," according to the announcement made on 15 September by Deputy Rafael Rottman Chang, chairman of the commission.

Rottman Chang said the commission has already made this decision because the draft of the law proposed 24 months, which is excessive when there is no "declared" war in existence.

He explained the goal of military service is to prepare Guatemalans to defend the fatherland, establish viable conditions for rapid and orderly deployment, and to maintain the Guatemalan Army units in accordance with the country's needs in times of peace and in times of war.

"It is important to point out that the purpose of military service is to contribute to training citizens in the Guatemalan Army in technical professions and arts and crafts," said Rottman Chang.

Rottman Chang added that efforts are also under way to modernize the current system so the Army can operate within a de jure state and respond to the hopes of Guatemalan society, while avoiding being branded in a way that could prove harmful to the prestige of the Guatemalan Army and that of its collaborators.

He indicated the novelty of the bill, which must be sent to the plenum soon, is that citizens will only show up for military service voluntarily or in response to a citation, thus eliminating the arbitrary draft system.

Rottman Chang also pointed out that conscription prompted by a failure to respond to a citation for service can be ordered only by a competent judge, the National Police, or Military Police.

Journalist Assesses Serrano Administration

PA1709134292 Guatemala City CRONICA in Spanish 11-17 Sep 92 p 27

[Article by Juan Luis Font: "Twenty Months of Solitude in the Palace"]

[Text] After 20 months in power, Jorge Serrano's government only conserves a slim maneuvering margin. Since the very first day, his government has been weak as it has had to negotiate even the smallest details with its allies in Congress. With time, however, its weakness became more acute as the exercise of power caused it to deteriorate further.

The regime has not been able to keep its campaign promises. Its inefficiency in solving basic matters, such

as citizen security (the best example of this can be seen in the former government minister's failure), illustrates the fact the government needs the support of a political party to provide it with the necessary personnel to implement the government programs. At this stage, Serrano's government only has the support of two borderline political organizations: Solidarity Action Movement and Democratic Socialist Party.

One year and eight months after replacing Vinicio Cerezo, Serrano has not found any other group to support his efforts, other than the support he gets from the Army. That is why, many duties, which were carried out by civilians in the previous administration, have now been assigned to the military. This, of course, means the civilian sector has made very few advances with this government. The civilian sector only started to fill the openings left by the Armed Forces when the latter returned to the garrisons in 1985.

Serrano's characteristic is reaction—he governs, without remedy, to solve the problems that emerge at that very moment. Serrano's main objectives announced on his inauguration day—the peace talks with the guerrillas and the improvement of the Guatemalan people's quality of life —are advancing so slowly they are seen with skepticism by the people. In contrast, Serrano's initiative for Guatemala to enter a regional economic bloc and his program to increase the collection of revenues by the government have been successful. Those actions, however, have not represented an improvement in services or an economic boost that resulted in benefits for the majority of the country.

Far from favoring the system, the government's actions have caused the threats against it to grow considerably. The discouragement caused by the government's inability to solve the people's most pressing problems and the criticism, from which almost no government institution is spared, translates into a growing estrangement of the low-income sectors. The lack of credibility, which in the 1990 elections produced many abstentions, could find other ways to manifest itself in a medium-term basis. Up to now, however, we do not see any organization in the Guatemalan political sphere capable of capitalizing on the people's discontentment. Furthermore, Serrano, who has the heavy task of leading a government under such conditions, has not shown signs of initiating actions to revitalize the system. As a matter of fact, the only proposal to revitalize the system has come from the opposition. The constitutional reforms endorsed by the Guatemalan Christian Democracy and the Union of the National Center appear to be the only alternative to confront the crisis. The president's adversaries are very careful not to take a strong stance against such a weak government as it could get into a maelstrom from which few political organizations could survive.

Honduras

FMLN Reports on Mines on Salvadoran Border

PA1809040292 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2054 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 17 September reported to the Honduran Binational Commission on the Salvadoran border areas where mines were planted during the 12 years of armed conflict with that neighboring country.

"Commander" Miguel Saenz told ACAN-EFE that mines were planted only in the Los Filos-La Canada area, in the Zazalapa pocket, which was transferred to Honduran jurisdiction on 11 September by virtue of an International Court of Justice ruling.

The top tribunal ended a border conflict between Honduras and El Salvador that dates back to 1861.

The guerrilla leader said the United Nations and OAS will help sweep mines from affected areas to spare residents from accidents.

Saenz presided over a committee of four FMLN members that met on 17 September with Honduran President Rafael Callejas and the Honduran Binational Commission to discuss the status of some 15,000 people who live at the border areas that were involved in the conflict.

Rebels Detonate Bomb, Police Head Comments

PA1709192192 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] A loud explosion shook the Ideal neighborhood in the capital's northwest sector approximately at 0900 on 15 September. An alleged guerrilla cell accidently detonated a bomb. Colonel Julio Cesar Chavez, head of the Public Security Force 2d Region, reported to the San Pedro Sula media that the explosion killed Jose Adolfo Lopez Carcamo and injured Jose Porfirio Zavala Aquino, who fled.

[Begin recording] [Chavez] We have a short report. Shortly after 0900 on 15 September, the communications center received a call saying a loud explosion had been heard in the Ideal neighborhood. Patrols were sent there at once with instructions to investigate. I confirmed the explosion occurred in house number 1404, owned by Acisio Munoz, on 3d Street and 14th Avenue. It is estimated the powerful explosive device weighed three pounds. The room was completely destroyed and the torso of the person handling the bomb was ravaged. The body, claimed by the mother, is that of Jose Adolfo Lopez Carcamo.

Jose Porfirio Zapata Aquino was slightly injured and taken to a medical center, but escaped and cannot be found. This explosive device would have been planted somewhere in the city on 15 September, as inferred by

the leaflets found at the house. These persons belong to a Morazanist Patriotic Front cell. We think the device was fitted with an electrical fuse, which led to the accident. The explosion would surely have injured other people if it had been planted and detonated. Two loaded 9mm pistols with a round in each of their firing chambers were also found at the site. We believe these small cells are trying to create confusion in the country with terrorist actions to the detriment of honest citizens.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this confirm that leftist groups are operating in Honduras?

[Chavez] As I said before, there are still cells of rebellious people trying to terrorize the population.

[Reporter] Any clues on these cells, Colonel?

[Chavez] We already have the clues. This person no doubt belongs to the Front. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Chamorro Doubts Ortega-Cesar-Godoy Alliance

PA1809001692 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro has expressed doubts that Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front, will form an alliance with Engineer Alfredo Cesar and Vice President Dr. Virgilio Godoy. Referring to the disturbances caused by a group of maimed soldiers on 14 September, Chamorro said the police were provoked.

[Begin Chamorro recording] My opinion of Mr. Daniel Ortega's remarks is, as you know, that I do not believe him. I believe that all Nicaraguans should clearly understand that I have placed a huge question mark in front of this current unity between Mr. Daniel Ortega, Mr. Alfredo Cesar, and Mr. Virgilio Godoy.

Regarding the incidents on 14 September, I must say first of all that in reality the individuals who staged the protest, claiming to be invalids, really are not, because they walked and ran perfectly well. They arrived with a red and black flag. They should have placed their flag where everyone was seated, calmly speaking, instead of standing in front all of the children, which constitutes provocation.

Furthermore, they blocked the diplomatic corps' view of the lovely parade staged by the boys and girls. The police went over to talk with them and asked them to move, but they refused. (?At one point I told the police) to go ask them to move. The police insisted and then, I imagine, someone [word indistinct] and a problem ensued. Someone was injured. But this is not important; do you know why? Because they must follow the policemen's orders. I told the gentleman to please [word indistinct] the police. As proof that they are not invalids, they moved. There was one injury, a slight injury, a little cut or something, and a little while later they arrived with a blanket. Ah! These were not normal incidents. [end recording]

D. Ortega, FSLN's 'Co-Government' Role Scored

PA1809155492 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Sep 92 p 14

[Article by Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] official mouthpiece has printed statements by FSLN leader Daniel Ortega that prompts one to reflect and assess not only Mr. Ortega's current personality—as he appears to have gone mad—but also the consequences of his words and position.

The newspaper in question said: "The FSLN's secretary general virtually ended the first stage of relations with the government when he said the executive's two-year period for applying its economic policies had run out, and the remedy had turned out to be worst than the disease."

Those statements confirm to us that during these two years the FSLN has been participating in the design and implementation of the government's policies. They also confirm that there has been a co-government, and the negative results of these policies can be attributed to it.

Meanwhile, to search hand in hand with the Sandinists for a remedy to cure the disease that they themselves had caused had to produce a very bad medicine.

The treatment for cancer is not given by individuals who suffer from that disease but by doctors who study the illness. Therefore, Sandinism cannot cure the cancer; on the contrary, it caused it to spread.

"If the government does not modify its economic policy, and if poverty continues to spread while productive capacity continues to decrease"—the newspaper in question goes on to say—"we the Sandinists will have to mobilize and struggle so the government takes corrective measures. Otherwise it will have to be removed, as happens when governments lose their popular support," said Ortega.

Regardless of the serious and insane threats that his words represent—basically they are an announcement of civil war—it is good to remember that the Sandinsts lost the people's support they had on 19 July [1979]. They betrayed the Nicaraguan people, and on 25 February 1990 the people presented them with the tab. That is why they were removed from the government. They did, however, hold on to enough power to co-govern with sectors of the current government.

One must ask: Will the Sandinists take over for the current government? In this remote and unfortunate case, what would they offer?

First, they should not complain about the government's current economic policies as they are the main beneficiaries.

They are now capitalists, bankers, businessmen, ranchers, cattle raisers, landowners, pinata-like give away champions; that is, they are the new bourgeoisie who, when they were in power, gave away the nation and disposed of national sovereignty.

Second, what does Sandinism represent for Nicaraguans?

It represents 11 years of war, bloodshed, pain, death, confiscations, hunger, nakedness, sickness, scarcity, rationing, unhealthiness, lack of housing; in other words, the seven plagues of Egypt plus seven more.

If they take over power by staging a coup, their joy will be short-lived as in a few hours they would be on their way to Cuba to write their memoirs. The days of coups d'etat by strong military men who are ambitious for power are over, and the Nicaraguan people are not willing to put up with another Ortega, Somozists, or any other kind of dictatorship.

In the end, the Sandinists have no right to question the legitimate and sovereign decisions of a national government that rose from the people's will; a government that they had to acknowledge.

The government should act firmly by making the necessary decisions without local or foreign pressure, keeping in mind only the well-being of all, consolidation of the state of law, and the defense of institutionalization, which is what gives a government trust as well as political and moral authority.

The government should look for support from the people, who are the source of all power, and convince itself that the decisions of a clique that does not respond to the people's will are a step toward dictatorship.

The government should be cautious when it chooses its associates, and it should not continue to serve the Sandinists' interests. Remember, the devil pays with hell all those who serve him well, and the Sandinists are experts at that.

Argentina

Menem Supports Justicialist Deputies' Expulsion

PY1809013092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Sep 92 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Justicialist bloc of deputies decided early yesterday morning to expel Deputies Luis Saadi and Claudio Mendoza from the group due to their "irresponsible" corruption accusations against undisclosed Lower House members.

Later in the day President Carlos Menem announced his support for the majority bloc's move. In a meeting with members of the bloc at the Olivos presidential residence Menem urged them to vote for several bills sent by the government, including the draft law for the privatization of YPF [Government Oil Deposits] state-owned oil company.

The YPF bill was at the centre of the Saadi scandal, touched off after the legislator stated last Thursday that "several congressmen received three million dollars to be present for the vote on the YPF privatization."

Although Saadi apologized for his statements a few hours later and said he had no evidence to back the accusations he had "just heard as corridor gossip," the remarks were bitterly criticized both in Congress and in government.

Yesterday the Lower House authorities created a special commission to study whether Saadi's behaviour could lead to his expulsion from the House. The members of the commission are Justicialist Carlos Soria, Radical Antonio Hernandez, Intransigent Pedro Garcia, Jose Juan Manny (Democratic Centre Union) and Roque Sanchez (Tierra del Fuego Popular Movement).

The commission will also look into the statements of Claudio Mendoza (Justicialist-Chaco), who said there has been corruption in Congress since the re-establishment of democracy in 1983.

The decision to effect Saadi's "separation" from the Justicialist bloc was made after a long and heated debate in which several members opposed the measure. Bloc leader Jorge Matzkin stated that "he has been temporarily separated from the bloc, but he can return to it in the future."

Ramon Saadi, Luis' brother and a former governor of Catamarca, suggested that "about a dozen deputies could form a new bloc because we are not satisfied at all with this one headed by Matzkin."

Meanwhile, Radical Deputies Leopoldo Moreau and Marcelo Bassani pointed out that in their opinion Saadi's accusations were directed only at Peronist legislators. "Something very serious is happening in the Majority bloc," said Moreau.

In turn, Democratic Centre Union Deputy Federico Clerici contended that Saadi "should leave the house for quite a long period."

Finally, Luis Saadi himself said yesterday he had been subject to "pressure" in order to vote for laws in exchange for "not damaging" the interests of his province, Catamarca.

Saadi, who did not disclose which government officials exercised this pressure, added that among the threats was "not to send funds to pay provincial salaries, place the province under federal control (which was finally done last year) or put my brother Ramon in jail."

Menem Denies Withdrawal From Mercosur

PY1809023092 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Text] With regard to the issues reviewed by President Carlos Menem today, and specifically about the future of Mercosur [Common Market of the South], the head of state said that Mercosur will definitely be established on 31 December 1994.

Menem stressed that Brazil's politico-institutional situation will not damage Mercosur in the least. He said Argentina will not withdraw from Mercosur, as has been indicated by some press reports.

Navy Commander on U.S., Joining NATO

PY1709164592 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1322 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Bahia Blanca, 17 Sep (NA)—Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Jorge Ferrer has stressed that in the very near future Argentina will become an active member of NATO. [passage omitted]

Ferrer also said that Argentina's presence in the internal sphere is a reality that is progressing securely.

"It is my belief that the importance behind being considered by the United States, the world's greatest power, not only as friends or partners [preceding word in English] but as a true ally has not yet penetrated deeply enough."

Brazil

Attorney General's 'Judgment' on Crimes Issued

PY1709150792 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—The following are the main passages of the government attorney general's judgment:

• "The depositions and testimony gathered in this inquest, together with the documentary evidence

included in it, as well as the probatory elements submitted by the aforementioned joint Congressional Investigating Committee and now presented for addition or annexation, indicate the occurrence of criminal actions whose strong circumstantial evidence of being the perpetrator falls on his excellency, Fernando Affonso Collor de Mello, the president of the Republic."

• "They are actions that, in theory, represent crimes against public administration. More than one public servant, including his excellency, the president of the Republic, is charged with being the perpetrator of these actions in addition to other actions that, also in theory, are liable to be classified by the Penal Code as crimes against full faith and credit, and are connected to the aforementioned actions. The documentary evidence in the records notes that these actions occurred during the presidential term of office."

• "There is a firm conclusion that the procedural immunity foreseen in Article 89, Paragraph 4, of the federal Constitution, does not apply to this inquest, which reports, in addition to other connected crimes, crimes against public administration with circumstantial evidence that the perpetrator is his excellency, the president of the Republic."

• "In principle, following these records, it is possible, therefore, to hold the chief executive criminally liable for committing common crimes, notwithstanding the effectiveness of his presidential term of office."

• "But the formation of an opinio delicti [preceding two words in Latin] by the government's Attorney General's Office on his excellency, the president of the Republic, conducive to filing charges depends on other proceedings, including one foreseen in Article 6, Clause V, of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which consists of hearing the indicted."

• "Only after this is carried out and in view of the new evidence gathered, whose need was clearly admitted by the police authority itself, will the government's Attorney General's Office be in a position to reach a conclusion on filing or not filing charges against the president of the Republic."

• "There is an insurmountable impediment now for the government's Attorney General's Office to express itself with respect to a petition on the preventive custody of some indictees filed by the honorable police authority before the conclusion of the filing of charges against the president of the Republic, the only reason of which is the competency of that eminent court."

• "To penal effects, it is unquestionable that the president of the Republic is a public servant as established in Article 327 of the Penal Code."

Justice Postpones Questionnaire to Collor

PY1809140492 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Federal Supreme Court Justice Ilmar Galvao has decided to postpone the submission to President Fernando Collor of a questionnaire with 15 questions formulated by the government's attorney general, Aristides Junqueira.

[Begin (Salete Sobreira) recording] In his decision, released on 17 September, the justice preferred to first accept a recommendation made by the government's attorney general to conduct new proceedings in the Federal Police inquest that is investigating charges against entrepreneur PC [Paulo Cesar] Farias.

In his decision, Justice Ilmar Galvao orders the request from Radiobras [Brazilian Radio Broadcasting Company] [word indistinct] videos of the declarations made by the president of the Republic on 26 May, 21 and 30 June, and 30 August. The justice also asks the Planalto Palace Press Secretariat to send the invoices for the advertising contracts signed by [former private presidential secretary] Claudio Vieira in the name of the Presidency of the Republic. The justice also requests Central Bank documents and information that must be supplied by Deputy Paulo Octavio.

Justice Ilmar Galvao also asked Federal Police to hear the deposition of people involved in the PC scheme and included in the government's attorney general's judgment.

In his decision, the justice adds that only after the requested investigations are completed will he submit to the president of the Republic a notice to acknowledge the actions investigated and respond within 15 days to a questionnaire formulated by Attorney General Aristides Junqueira. [end recording]

Lourenco Counts 208 Votes Against Impeachment

PY1809124292 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By Antonio Carlos Silva]

[Text] Deputy Jose Lourenco, the government's deputy leader in the Chamber of Deputies, is calm regarding the vote on the request for the impeachment of the president of the Republic. He said the government situation is comfortable because it has 208 votes against the request currently underway in the Chamber of Deputies.

Deputy leader Jose Lourenco again said he does not believe the request for the impeachment of the president of the Republic will be voted on this month because the Chamber of Deputies has 132 congressmen who are mayoral candidates and will not be here in late September for voting.

Deputy leader Jose Lourenco also does not believe in an open vote system. In his opinion, the Federal Supreme Court is a faithful interpreter of law and tradition and is not there to judge in accordance with the Chamber of Deputies' president's interests.

On 17 September, Congress held another session, the seventh of the 10 sessions involving the president of the Republic's defense period.

Collor Defines Opposition With 'Expletives'

PY1809032892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] President Fernando Collor made some strong remarks about opposition leaders during a dinner held last night, at the house of Deputy Onaireves Moura of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] of Parana State, to celebrate the birthday of Federal Savings Bank President Alvaro Mendonca.

The list of guests contained 300 names. According to Moura, 142 deputies, 12 senators, and five ministers attended the party. The occasion was the birthday of Federal Savings Bank President Alvaro Mendonca, but the guest of honor was President Fernando Collor, who got excited during his speech.

According to those who attended the party the president got quite upset when talking about politicians and the press. During a meeting with reporters Deputy Roberto Jefferson repeated the expletives and harsh adjectives used by the president against Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes and Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro. He refused to repeat the words on television, saying that they were too harsh.

Another person attacked by President Collor was Deputy Roseana Sarney, coordinator of the pro-impeachment commission. Presidential Spokesman Etevaldo Dias justified the president's anger:

[Begin recording] Fernando Collor spoke more as a citizen than as a president. He allowed himself to speak freely during a meeting with friendly legislators. He is a person who has been undergoing a lynching process, a process of slander and injustice, that has already lasted over 100 days. It was more a kind of letting off steam for a man who has been suffering than the speech of a president. [end recording]

A Planalto Palace adviser said that President Collor arrived at the palace very much at ease. He promulgated the bill on salary equity, with vetoes on some articles, and talked with government supporters. According to the source, the climate of peace was interrupted only by the news of Leda Collor de Mello's [Collor's mother] health. At the end of the afternoon the president traveled to Rio de Janeiro to visit his mother.

Government Pulls Out of Fight Over Secret Vote

PY1809022292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The government has withdrawn from the fight for a secret vote on the impeachment request. The government will now bet on delaying the vote until after the elections. Government congressional leaders have a strategy for doing just that.

The calendar is the guide for those who favor impeachment. The Chamber of Deputies today held the seventh session of a total of 10 that have been alloted President Collor to present his defense. Besides waiting, legislators are now working to make sure that the impeachment request is presented on 23 September. On this date the Supreme Court will decide if the vote must be open or secret. Legislators supporting the government have mentioned the possibility of giving up on the secret vote if it is left for a date after the election. Government supporters plan to get the delay by not presenting the president's defense in time, by 22 September. Government supporters have said that a lawyer will present the president's defense within the following 10 days. In this case the vote will not occur on 29 September—as wanted by those favoring impeachment—but on 7 October.

[Begin recording] [Humberto Souto, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies] If the vote comes after the election legislators can make a decision calmly. They will take into account only the purpose of the impeachment request.

[Unidentified correspondent] Deputy, why is it so important for the opposition to have the vote on impeachment before the elections?

[Workers Party Deputy Jose Genoino] If the vote comes before the elections, legislators will be judged by their constituencies. Second, we do not have too much time to prepare the second congressional session after the elections if we want to finish before the end of the year. [end recording]

Procedure for Possible Collor Trial Reviewed

PY1709142792 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Sep 92 p 4

[A chart outlines the legal procedure if President Fernando Collor is prosecuted on common criminal charges]

[Text]—Attorney General Aristides Junqueira analyzes the documents submitted by the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] in the PC [Paulo Cesar Farias] case and the Federal Police investigation, and sends a questionnaire to the president for him to give an explanation.

—The Federal Supreme Court [STF] analyzes the questionnaire and, if it agrees, it submits the questionnaire to the president for him to provide the answers within 15 days.

—After the attorney general receives the answers—if he finds evidence of crimes—he presses charges before the STF, which is constitutionally empowered to judge the president.

—In order to judge Collor, the STF first must seek authorization from the Chamber of Deputies, which must decide by a two-thirds majority (336 votes) whether the president should be judged.

—If the Chamber of Deputies authorizes the president's prosecution, Collor is automatically removed from his post for a maximum period of 180 days, and Vice President Itamar Franco takes office.

—After listening to the witnesses of the accused and the accusing parties, the STF members decide the sentence, which may not be appealed because the STF is a higher court.

—If Collor is found guilty, he definitely will lose his post and may not run in elections for eight years. If he is found innocent, he returns to his post.

President Collor's Brother Interviewed

PY1809155192 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Sep 92 p 4

[Interview with President Fernando Collor's brother Pedro by Moises Rabinovici on 11 September in Miami]

[Excerpts] [Rabinovici] Will you settle in Miami?

[Pedro Collor] I can make no decision yet. My family rejected me. Now I have to think of the future with Tereza and our children.

[Rabinovici] Do you repent?

[Pedro Collor] Not at all. I would do it all over again, more competently. I showed the tip of an iceberg. I tried to sound an alert when PC [Paulo Cesar Farias] tried to wipe out the GAZETA DE ALAGOAS. He began by hiring employees from my enterprise by offering them five times the salaries they were earning. I concluded that this was a war, and I went to see Fernando. He showed his "indignation" and ordered Claudio Vieira to talk with PC to end this situation. But rather than engaging in competition, the idea was to eliminate the newspaper.

[Rabinovici] Would you assume the same attitude again?

[Pedro Collor] I did it, and I would do it again. I only regret what I did not do.

[Rabinovici] Regardless of whether your brother falls?

[Pedro Collor] Too bad. If you make a mistake, you pay for it. Everybody pays for his mistakes. I always paid for my mistakes. PC will pay. He is a totally immoral megalomaniac who has neither friends nor ethics. Incidentally, he does not know the meaning of immorality. He has no standards.

[Rabinovici] Did you have any contact with President Collor?

[Pedro Collor] There have been no more contacts. There is no reason for making contacts. I have not talked with him since a meeting in Maceio—if I am not wrong it was in May or April—during the voter registration period.

[Rabinovici] So no chances for a reconciliation?

[Pedro Collor] I do not intend to reconcile our differences. If I have to take another course in the future, I will not resist. It is God's will.

[Rabinovici] Are you satisfied with the investigations' results?

[Pedro Collor] I do not measure my satisfaction in terms of the results accomplished by the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] or the Federal Police. I feel at peace with myself because I told the truth. It was confirmed through legal mechanisms. No one understood at the beginning. After everything was confirmed, and after it was noted that what I said was only one-tenth of what actually happened, I felt reassured: Everyone knows that I told the truth.

[Rabinovici] You are satisfied...

[Pedro Collor] Yes, and only because a CPI has reached its goal. In the past, CPI's did not complete their work. This CPI produced a conclusive report. It did a sound, concrete job.

[Rabinovici] Why did you begin this process?

[Pedro Collor] Many people call me to tell me: "Pedro, people say that you were paid billions for doing this, for being in Miami." Other people say that I acted out of envy for my brother. My answer is: I have a very personal motivation. If I had remained silent, I would not have been at peace with myself. I had to report my disagreement with such a scheme. [passage omitted]

[Rabinovici] You charged that PC kept 30 percent of corruption revenues and the remaining 70 percent was transferred to the president. Can you confirm that?

[Pedro Collor] PC Farias himself said that. It was reiterated within the CPI. The information did not deal merely with one or two people. When someone reacted to the extortion attempt, he heard a threat: "I'd rather not do that because 70 percent of that money is for the boss."

[Rabinovici] How would you like this story to end?

[Pedro Collor] I don't want to cause trouble. I have the feeling that PC will be imprisoned. If he is not, I will do everything in my power to send him to jail, whatever the cost. He is public enemy number one. [passage omitted]

[Rabinovici] You do not talk with your mother anymore?

[Pedro Collor] The last time I talked with her was when she dismissed me after 17 years of work at the GAZETA DE ALAGOAS. We had our final conversation over the phone.

[Rabinovici] Why were you dismissed?

[Pedro Collor] Now I understand why. It was an attempt to obstruct the CPI. My mother was used for this objective. My mother told me that she and Fernando agreed that I would be dismissed in order to prevent the creation of the CPI, and that nothing should be released to the press. But when I was talking with my mother over the phone, I had received a fax from the Press Secretariat of the Presidency reporting my dismissal. She said: "That is not what Fernando and I agreed to do." She was betrayed by Fernando.

[Rabinovici] How do you feel?

[Pedro Collor] I understand the reasons of others. Sooner or later we will again contact each other. It is like the course of a river. I cannot change it.

[Rabinovici] Is the president likely to resign?

[Pedro Collor] Based on what I know of him, he never will resign. I know the Fernando of the 1980's. After that time, PC came on the scene and destroyed a family. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister on Policies, Politics

PY1809030092 Sao Paulo ISTOE SENHOR in Portuguese 16 Sep 92 pp 46-47

[Interview with Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira by ISTOE correspondents J. Santana Filho and Rodrigo Mesquita, not individually identified; place and date not given]

[Text] [ISTOE] After the calm that prevailed during the Marques tenure, aren't you afraid that your departure from the ministry may upset the economy?

[Marques] In the communique we released three weeks ago, promising to stay on to ensure governability, we also set the date for our departure. This was not a whimsical but rather a logical decision. Even if the impeachment is not approved, the president will have to govern with a new power structure. He must have absolute freedom to choose, something he has already, of course. If we were to get a new president, he will want to bring in his own cabinet team.

[ISTOE] Would you agree to stay on?

[Marques] No. I do not go around speculating. It would be terribly impolite.

[ISTOE] You are, however, remaining in your post to try to save the current economic program, or at least to signal to society that this program must be maintained, regardless of who the economy minister is?

[Marques] Exactly. We must have a market economy, otherwise we will not be competitive, and economic shocks are artificial, short-lived, and reprehensible instruments.

[ISTOE] Would you be willing to participate in negotiations aimed at making sure that these ideas survive during the upcoming period of transition?

[Marques] I always will be ready, as I have been in the past. Your magazine may bear witness that my struggle is not recent; it has been going on for decades. In the first article I wrote for the press in 1964, on the program of San Thiago Dantas [former Brazilian economy minister] I already was waging this struggle. What was his program? He wanted to defeat inflation and to institute what he used to call basic structural reforms. All this had to be done because Brazil could not remain isolated from the rest of the world.

[ISTOE] Minister, what are the results on the whole of the 16 months you have been at the helm of the economy?

[Marques] Sixteen months ago we had an economy marked by a price freeze, our foreign reserves were being jeopardized by a depressed exchange rate, and our foreign relations were very shaky. Now we have price freedom for the first time in 27 years. This will release the creative forces of our economy, although not immediately.

[ISTOE] Do you believe this modernization process will outlive the Collor administration?

[Marques] I believe so. This is not a project of this administration but a reaction to the demands of society, of the whole world. It is inconceivable for a country of our size to want to and to be out of step with the international economy. We cannot behave like the mother who sees her son parading out of step, and says rather that the entire platoon is out of step. Brazil was risking isolation from the world, but I believe we no longer run this risk.

[ISTOE] Do you believe that even in the prevailing political atmosphere the fiscal reform bill will be voted on this year?

[Marques] I believe so. After all, the state is bankrupt. This is the result of a 10-year-long process of decay which has now touched bottom. Should this not be set right immediately, nobody will be able to govern this country, neither A nor B nor C.

[ISTOE] You frequently mention governability. Do you believe that it is possible to continue governing this country in the midst of a recession?

[Marques] Look here, my friend, there is no recession. This is a falsehood that has been drummed into the population while government and FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] indexes, all of them, have been showing growth. The indexes of the National Confederation of Industries and of the FGV [Getulio Vargas Foundation] show that there is growth. Therefore, there can be no recession.

[ISTOE] What about unemployment?

[Marques] Even unemployment has been going down. The rate of industrial unemployment in greater Sao Paulo did increase. This is a serious problem, because the capital goods industry and the consumer goods industry, the two hardest hit by the recession, are concentrated in Sao Paulo.

[ISTOE] Didn't you say there was no recession?

[Marques] When an industry is coming out of a recession, as is the case now, it does not need to reinvest or to increase its installed capacity. All it has to do is put its idle machinery to work. We have had a record harvest that produced 20 million tons of grains more than the previous one, the agricultural product has expanded by 8 percent, and there has been a slight industrial growth. This allows us to expect a 3 percent overall growth this year. Two years ago our economy shrunk by 4 percent, and we have had no per capita growth in the Gross Domestic Product for the last 10 years.

[ISTOE] Then how can you explain inflation remaining at the current level?

[Marques] Between December 1991 and April of this year inflation indexes showed a positive trend. They went down from around 30 percent to around 20 percent, a decline of one-third. They would have continued to go down had not certain circumstances... political turmoil, not arisen.

[ISTOE] Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro financial circles are saying that the administration is studying a plan to dollarize the economy and freeze prices and salaries. This would have an effect like Hiroshima. Are there any grounds to these rumors?

[Marques] There is no such thing. This is an insane rumor flung at defenseless holders of savings accounts who are still reeling from five successive shocks. It is a cowardly trick which does great harm. Now that economists and consultants are starting to talk about Hiroshima plans, no economy in the world could hold together.

[ISTOE] Don't you think the people are tired?

[Marques] Undoubtedly they are. I cannot believe that anyone wants this crisis to go on. There is tiredness, but there is also a good sign—which is that people want it all to end legally, not traumatically.

[ISTOE] People already are talking about not paying their taxes...What is your reaction to this?

[Marques] I believe that this is an irresponsible, unreasonable, and inappropriate proposal. It will end up by harming the taxpayers and the businessmen. It is tantamount to one failing to pay condominium fees because one does not like the administrator. The elevator will stop, and the water and power will be cut off.

[ISTOE] To what do you attribute current tax evasion? Is it a form of civil disobedience?

[Marques] Tax evasion has been going on for more than a decade now. It is the result of, let us say, a weakening of the state. The state, in addition to lacking the means, is also weak. The entire tax system is very hard on investments, production, manpower, and consumption. It is a patchwork blanket, and old to boot.

[ISTOE] It has been said that had the economy been in good shape the people would not have taken to the streets no matter what. What do you think?

[Marques] I do not agree. I believe that many people have taken advantage of the current atmosphere to express on the streets their disagreement with modernization. There are many businessmen who love control and are unable to live without a safety net. There is an unbelievable amount of corporatism. The return of slogans such as "the oil is ours" or "telecommunications are ours" is out of place in this time and age. I believe that some people are taking undue ideological advantage of a legitimate and rightful movement.

[ISTOE] Then you agree that there is a crisis in which the key element is interference by certain displeased elites?

[Marques] This is undoubtedly a crisis brought about by upset elites. This is an economic and a political crisis. There is also a presidential crisis, but the latter should and will follow its course.

[ISTOE] In the midst of this atmosphere you are traveling to Washington to meet with the IMF. Can you negotiate anything, despite the loss of strength?

[Marques] No strength has been lost abroad. On the contrary, we are enjoying an unprecedented position: our reserves are equal to 12 months of exports, that is, $21 billion. Thus, I will proudly say in Washington that I come from a country which is experiencing a serious, a very serious, unprecedented crisis, but that its democratic institutions are operating. I come from a country that returned to its people a $24 billion compulsory loan. I will say that I come from a country that is larger than its crisis.

Foreign Minister To Depart for UN Session

PY1809020892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Celso Lafer will leave for the United States on 19 September. Lafer will participate in the opening session of the 47th UN General Assembly. According to Foreign Ministry Secretary General Luiz Felipe Seixas Correia, Foreign Minister Celso Lafer will meet with the foreign ministers of 20 countries, including those of the United States, Japan, France, and the United Kingdom. Celso Lafer will also participate in the Rio Group foreign ministers' meeting and the Ibero-American countries' meeting. Seixas said that Celso Lafer's trip was important for Brazil's foreign policy.

[Begin recording] Lafer's trip means that Brazil will continue its full participation in the process of multilateral diplomacy. This is a traditional participation which is part of our international projection. [end recording]

With regard to the National Accounts Tribunal [TCU] decision to consider the position of cultural attache nonexistent, Ambassador Luiz Felipe Seixas Correia said that the Foreign Ministry will wait until it receives the official notification before making a decision. The ambassador said the Foreign Ministry might send a bill to Congress creating and regulating the position, adding that the Foreign Ministry will respect the TCU decision, as it always has done.

Cuban Education Representatives Seek Accords

PY1709142992 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Sep 92 p 13

[Text] Campinas, Sao Paulo—Cuban Superior Education Ministry representatives arrived in Brazil on 15 September to study the possibility of signing new accords to intensify exchange between the two countries' universities. The Cuban delegation, which is comprised of First Deputy Minister Miguel Torres Hernandez and 11 university rectors, visited Campinas State University (Unicamp) on 15 September. On 16 September, they will visit Sao Paulo University (USP).

Cuba mainly is interested in biotechnology and its use in medicine manufacturing and agriculture, which will enable them to increase Cuba's productive capacity and its diversity, and improve its quality. "But we also are interested in other sciences," Hernandez added.

Chile

Pinochet Speaks Again at La Union Club

PY1709183392 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpts] General Augusto Pinochet has spoken out again during a luncheon at La Union Club. The Army commander denied that his remarks on 14 September were inopportune and inappropriate, as said by Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa. [passage omitted]

The lunch was given in the same place, La Union Club, by the Rotary Club in honor of Pinochet and his institution. [passage omitted]

[Begin Pinochet recording, in progress] ...I said that Colonel Krasnoff is having problems. But I must say that we never have been against the judicial branch. On the contrary, we always have cooperated with the judicial branch. Thus, I can assure you that my words were neither inopportune nor inappropriate. [words indistinct]

Well, the other problem I have, gentlemen, is concerning the situation created by my words that the Army sleeps like a lion. Of course, it does sleep because it is at ease. But if this is taken out of context and only the first part is published—the Army sleeps like a lion—and then the second part is published—that the Army is stoically enduring pressures, of course this appears as a threat. What I said is that the Army can stoically endure pressures. Later I said that the lion is asleep, meaning that it is at ease. But here everything is interpreted the other way around. So, I do not want to keep talking. [laughs, applause] [end recording]

Gen. Pinochet said he has no personal ambition and does not want to bother anyone:

[Begin recording] Gentlemen, thank you very much. I do not want to talk any more because my words may cause more problems. [laughs, applause] [end recording]

Krasnoff Summoned To Court; Testimony Delayed

PY1809034092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Colonel Miguel Krasnoff Marchenko, chief of staff of the Valdivia-based 4th Army Division, today unexpectedly appeared in court to answer questions in the case of missing leftist activist Alfonso Chanfreau.

Col. Krasnoff appeared in court despite Army Commander Augusto Pinochet's remarks on 15 September that Krasnoff would not appear to testify until the conflict of jurisdiction between the military and civilian courts is resolved.

Krasnoff appeared today in court a few hours after the Supreme Court ordered, in response to a petition filed by a military prosecutor, that the court proceedings in the Chanfreau case be suspended. After several unsuccessful summons, Judge Gloria Olivares had made arrangements for Krasnoff to testify this morning.

Krasnoff waited for 15 minutes for the judge and then left the court building. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Krasnoff] I am here to comply with a summons dated 15 September I received yesterday afternoon. Following orders from the Army commander, I travelled all night. I arrived this morning because I was supposed to appear in court at 1000. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you plead not guilty of the charges raised against you?

[Krasnoff] Look, it appears that everyone here has forgotten that we unfortunately or fortunately had to wage a war in our country, under extremely unusual conditions, to deal with an escalation of violence that existed before 11 September 1973. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In her chambers Judge Olivares said she is also investigating Col. Krasnoff's connections with the defunct National Intelligence Directorate [Dina] and with former Dina agent Osvaldo Romo [who is currently under arrest in Brazil]. [passage omitted]

Detainee 'Definitely' Not 'Commander Emilio'

PY1809024292 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Who is Commander Emilio? The police today further clarified this puzzle. Moreover, the three extremists arrested yesterday will be at the disposal of the Investigative Police for 10 days.

Twenty-four hours after the spectacular operation carried out in the San Joaquin neighborhood, the police are beginning to establish the participation of the three detained extremists in several armed actions. Jorge Espinola Robles, Cesar Umana Diaz, and Ricardo Aranda have been submitted to intensive questioning. So far there are no indications that they were the instigators or perpetrators of the attack on and murder of three detectives last week. They are neither responsible for the attack on General Gustavo Leigh nor for the kidnapping of Christian Edwards.

It has been reported that Jorge Espinola Robles is definitely not Commander Emilio, as he was thought to be, linked to the last two cases. Commander Emilio is one of the top leaders of the Manuel Rodriguez Autonomous Front, and is still at large. Police sources have described him as being tall and burly, and very well trained as an extremist. These characteristics do not correspond to Jorge Espinola Robles, 26, who is also one of the most wanted men. [passage omitted]

Rumors of Planned Attack at Parade Denied

PY1709192292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss flatly denied the existence of an alleged terrorist plan designed to attack six civilian and military authorities during the military parade [on 18 September to mark Chile's independence day]. Krauss said these were mere rumors and that they are not withholding information to avoid causing alarm because it would be just like fighting windmills:

[Begin recording] I repeat, there is no information, no concrete evidence; we have not detected any plan, no formal charges have been made. If you ask me to investigate this... [end recording]

Krauss said there is no concrete evidence in this regard, therefore, security measures for the military parade will be the usual ones for this type of event. [passage omitted]

Silva on Nonaligned Movement, PLO, U.S.

PY1709143492 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] On his arrival in Santiago this afternoon, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma expressed his deep satisfaction with Chile's full reinstatement in the international arena, evidenced by its participation in the recent Nonaligned Movement summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Looking very relaxed after flying nonstop from Berlin for 28 hours, Silva Cimma stated that Chile's rejoining the Nonaligned Movement is wholly justifiable. He pointed out that the movement was established to support the United Nations in its endeavors during a time of changing international relations.

Silva Cimma went on to say that as head of the Chilean delegation he met representatives from several countries, namely African nations. He added that the most positive outcome of those meetings is that Chile will resume or establish diplomatic relations with several African countries and that a Chilean embassy will be opened to concurrently serve several African nations.

Concerning his meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Silva Cimma said that they exchanged a special greeting and that 'Arafat requested an in-depth study from him of the PLO situation in Chile. However, he made it clear that for the time being there is no news about a possible recognition of the PLO office in Santiago.

After attending the Nonaligned Movement summit, which ended 6 September, Silva Cimma went to Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Hungary, and Berlin, where he attended the Socialist International meeting.

Silva Cimma stated that in Budapest he met delegates from East European countries. This enabled him to sketch out Chile's future foreign policy vis-a-vis these countries.

With regard to the Socialist International meeting in Berlin, where a social democratic trend is definitely taking shape, Silva Cimma said that he could note a broad understanding of and support for the government's endeavors in Chile.

Regarding Erich Honecker's case, Silva Cimma underscored the fact that, quote, there is absolutely no concern or uneasiness, unquote, about this case in Germany. He said Germany values her relations with Chile very highly. This corroborates what has been said, namely that this case was blown out of proportion.

As for the appointment of James Holger, former negotiator in the case, as the new Chilean ambassador to Moscow, Silva Cimma pointed out that Holger is an outstanding career diplomat. He added that it was high time we acknowledged him, because Aylwin's administration reinstated him to his post after he had been retired in spite of the fact that he was an outstanding diplomat.

When asked whether he would continue as foreign minister, Silva Cimma answered that he had not discussed the matter with President Aylwin, who, by the way, was very pleased with the positive results of Silva Cimma's trip.

In connection with Bolivia's case, Silva Cimma stated that he fully supports acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas, who said that the existing conditions do not allow setting the stage for discussing Bolivia's sought-after outlet to the sea.

To conclude, Silva Cimma stated that the Foreign Ministry is studying the case pertaining to the diplomatic protection requested by businessman Carlos Cardoen on account of discriminatory actions taken by the U.S. Administration against him, but that it had not come to any decision yet.

Public Expense Figures Increase Announced

PY1809015292 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Sep 92 pp A1, A16

[Summary] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley gave a news conference in which he announced that public expenses had increased by 4.3 percent during the first half of 1992 in comparison with the same period last year, which is equivalent to 9.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while fiscal savings increased by 22.2 percent during the same period, amounting to 2.7 percent of the GDP.

The overall surplus in the fiscal accounts increased to 1.8 percent of the GDP, in comparison with 1.4 percent during the same period last year. According to figures recently released by the Central Bank, the domestic expenses of the public and private economic sectors grew by an average 11 percent during the first half of the year in comparison with the same period last year. Foxley said that public revenues increased by 7.8 percent during the same period. Budget Director Jose Pablo Arellano, who was also present at the news conference, reported that revenue increases are due to tax collection and copper sales.

Colombia

Escobar Warns Police 'Loved Ones' 'Untouchable'

PA1709150492 Paris AFP in Spanish 1357 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 17 Sep (AFP)—Colombian cocaine "czar" Pablo Escobar stated on 17 September that "my loved ones are untouchable" and he warned he "will show no consideration" toward those who attack his family.

In a letter that he sent on 16 September to Colonel Luis Montenegro, head of the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations [Dijin], and which was released on 17 September, Escobar charged that "Major Riano has the idea of kidnapping my elderly father."

"My father lives a peaceful life because he is old and sick and because he does not owe anyone anything. As a peasant, he does not want to leave his town or his cattle," the drug trafficker stated.

The letter seems to stop, for the time being, rumors in Colombia about the Medellin Cartel chief's imminent surrender to authorities.

Escobar escaped from the comfortable prison in Envigado, 500 km northwest of Santa Fe de Bogota, on 22 July with nine of his associates, by taking advantage of the confusion surrounding an order to transfer him to another prison.

The voluntary surrender—for the second time—of hired killer Jorge Eduardo Avendano, alias El Tato, 37, in Medellin on 15 September, generated an avalanche of rumors about a new surrender by Escobar.

Some press reports and remarks by Father Rafael Garcia Herreros, Escobar's confessor and personal friend, indicate that Escobar might surrender this weekend.

In the letter to Montenegro, Escobar clarified he has not had any problem with the Dijin chief but that he has information that "two girls (girlfriends) who have a relationship with us" are under surveillance.

"These people are not going to provide any information, because we are not going to be so foolish as to meet with them," Escobar added.

Referring to this topic, the newspaper EL TIEMPO said that when the drug trafficker speaks about girlfriends, he is referring to two beauty queens from northern Colombia who are corresponding with the cartel members.

"If my loved ones disappear, I will show no consideration toward the families of those who are responsible for these actions," Escobar warned in his letter to Montenegro.

"I will not act without proof but remember that I also have friends in the Dijin," he stated, adding: "I agree that you have to carry out raids and make statements to

the press, and I agree that you have to do your job, but my family and my loved ones are untouchable."

Days before escaping from Envigado, Pablo Escobar had told President Cesar Gaviria in a letter that Dijin policemen were planning to kidnap his 15-year-old son, Juan Pablo.

On that occasion as now, the police have said there are no operations against the families of the criminals, against whom approximately 600 raids have been carried out in Medellin, Envigado, and Santa Fe de Bogota.

Escobar's Associates 'Expected' To Surrender

PA1709164792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Eight of Pablo Escobar's men are still at large. They are expected to surrender before Escobar to pave the way for him, so to speak. Four of these men have his complete trust.

Roberto de Jesus Escobar Gaviria, his brother and the person closest to him, surrendered to the police because his picture appeared on the first police poster. His only crimes at present are escaping from prison, kidnapping with the intention to demand ransom, and illegal possession of weapons. All of these charges are a consequence of his escape. He is known as Garcia, 71, and Samuel.

John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez, also known as Popeye, has been Escobar's military chief and the man in charge of providing personal security for him. He is held responsible for assassinating several important persons and has been linked to Andres Pastrana's kidnapping.

Otoniel de Jesus Gonzalez Franco, also known as Oto, is also in Escobar's trust. He has been under investigation for homicide since 1985.

Luis Carlos Aguilar Gallego, also known as El Mugre, is part of Escobar's military apparatus. He is regarded as the perpetrator of an attack against EL ESPECTADOR.

These men and Escobar are the most wanted men. Almost 3 billion pesos have been offered as a reward for any information leading to their capture. In addition to personal safety, their voluntary return to prison represents legal benefits these men could not claim if they are captured.

[Begin Minister of Justice Andres Gonzalez recording] If Escobar returns and surrenders to justice, several legal provisions will be applied that establish great benefits, as well as a reduction in sentence. [end recording] In addition to Eduardo Abendano, who surrendered to the authorities on 15 September, it is expected that John Ericsson Rivera, also known as Palomo, head of a hired killers gang; Gustavo Gonzalez Flores; Luis Fernando Henao Giraldo; and Alfonso Leon Puerta Munoz, who also escaped with Escobar, will surrender in a few days.

'Security Flaws' at Itagui Prison Reported

PA1809032992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] The new Itagui high security prison is not ready to hold the Medellin Cartel drug traffickers. A report issued by the military states that the Itagui prison, where Pablo Escobar and his cohorts will be taken, is not ready and has faulty security systems. There is only space for four more inmates in the cell block where the Ochoa brothers are serving time.

The new maximum security cell block at the Itagui prison is not ready. General Carlos Julio Gil Colorado, chief of Military Intelligence Services, and Gen. Mario Hugo Galan, commander of the 4th Brigade, verified this fact. Just hours ago, the two military commanders, two police commanders, and prison director Jaime Ospina toured the premises on foot and concluded that although the work has progressed, serious security flaws still exist. The dormitories for the guards from the General Directorate of Prisons have not yet been built and there is no space for their offices. The guard houses for the check points have not been built. There is no space for the troops who are to watch over Pablo Escobar, if he should turn himself in.

Itagui prison has a maximum security cell block, which now houses the three Ochoa brothers; five of Escobar's men who did not escape from Envigado; Jorge Eduardo Avendano, who surrendered to justice 48 hours ago; and the leader of a paramilitary group. The block has 14 cells; 10 are occupied. There are, then, four left where Escobar and some of his men could be placed.

[Begin recording] [Duran] If Escobar were to turn himself in now, what would happen?

[Itagui Mayor Oscar Sanchez] The Justice Ministry would have to figure out a solution. We are, of course, separate when it comes to handling this sort of thing, and we would stand aside while the government finds a solution. [end recording]

Although the pace of the work has been stepped up, it is believed that it will take at least two months for the work to be completed.

Ecopetrol Director Resigns Over Fuel Prices

PA1709181892 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Caracol has just confirmed that Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] President Andres Restrepo Londono has resigned due to a disagreement with Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes, who does not support an increase in fuel prices this year.

We repeat, this is a scoop by Caracol Network. Ecopetrol President Andres Restrepo has resigned. He went to the

Government Palace on 16 September to deliver his resignation letter to the president.

Caracol has confirmed in the last few minutes that the Ecopetrol president resigned due to differences with the finance minister on the need to increase gasoline prices. Public Works Minister Jorge Bendeck had previously said the increase was necessary. Nevertheless, the finance minister is not in favor of adjusting the gasoline prices this year. His position apparently has created disagreements within the government's economic team. Minister Hommes said he did not share the comments by Mines and Energy Minister Guido Nule and the public works minister who have told Caracol the adjustment is necessary. Minister Hommes thinks inflationary measures should not be adopted at this time when the government [words indistinct] against the cost of living. This is probably what caused Andres Restrepo's resignation.

Creation of Environment Ministry Announced

PA1709154592 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Sep 92 p 6A

[Text] The government has announced in Cartagena the creation of the Ministry of the Environment. This agency will regulate the government's responsibilities to the environment sector and will have an impact on the decisions adopted by government organizations and private enterprise affecting the quality of the environment.

It will have a basic structure formed by planning, coordinating, and executing entities at the national, regional, and local levels.

The announcement was made by Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero at the closing of the 15th Latin American Hydraulics Congress and the 10th National Hydraulics and Hydrology Seminar.

Lopez stated that the government will invest $1 billion to improve the environment and undertake works in the agriculture sector, especially in the irrigation districts.

A $600-million loan with multilateral banking organizations is being negotiated to resume, after 20 years, investments in new works.

A National Environment Council—which will be presided over by the environment minister and will be composed of other ministers and representatives of decentralized organizations—will also be created.

The regional autonomous corporations will be tasked with carrying out the environmental policy in the regions and they will enjoy administrative and financial autonomy. The state will delegate responsibilities in the handling of environmental affairs to community associations, nongovernmental associations, and private entities.

Paraguay

Armed Forces Communique Supports Rodriguez

PY1709163692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Joint communique addressed "To the Paraguayan People" from the Army, Navy, and Air Force commanders and other high-ranking military chiefs on the official stationery of the Armed Forces General Staff Command on 16 September in Asuncion]

[Text] The Armed Forces chief of staff; the Army, Navy, and Air Forces commanders; and the undersigned hereby ratify in our own name and on behalf of our subordinates our firm loyalty and unwavering subordination to his excellency, the president of the Republic and Armed Forces commander in chief, Army General Andres Rodriguez, reiterating our support for his government and our firm determination to uphold discipline as one of the main principles of the Armed Forces' structure.

Neither circumstances or temporary developments will weaken this loyalty to our superiors; quite the contrary, they enhance our faith in the consolidation of democracy as a commitment of honor in memory of those who died on the night of 2 and 3 February 1989 for the freedom of the Paraguayan people.

Signed: Navy Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit; Army Commander Division General Ramon Humberto Garcete; Air Force Commander Brigadier General Jose Cespedes Zarza; the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, Division General Eumelio Bernal Gimenez; the commander of the Logistic Command, Division General Silvio R. Noguera R.; and the chief of the Military Household, Division General Regis A. Romero E.

'Unswerving Loyalty' Shown

PY1709181792 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Text] Division General Regis Anibal Romero, the chief of the Military Household of the Presidency of the Republic, one of the communique's signatories, has pointed out: "The communique released last night by the commanders of the three branches, the General Staff chief, and other military leaders has no other purpose than to point out to the public that General Rodriguez, as commander in chief, maintains control of the Armed Forces." Gen. Romero indicated that the main goal of the communique released yesterday is to point out, once again, the unswerving loyalty to Gen. Rodriguez of the people under his command, in the face of reports that the commander in chief reportedly had lost control of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Romero stressed: "With this we also want to calm Armed Forces' members in the sense that discipline and the chain of command that characterizes every military

institution will not be altered." He also denied that the communique is linked to recent reports on the trafficking of [stolen] cars with Bolivia that involves several generals. Gen. Romero also pointed out that the Army corps commanders did not sign the communique because they are represented by the Army commander.

Defense Minister Comments

PY1709232292 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Sep 92 p 15

[Text] Defense Minister Angel Souto Hernandez stated this morning that he learned through the press about the communique released by the top military commanders. "I do not know what is happening. However, I see absolute tranquillity in the country, and within the Armed Forces we are all working with absolute loyalty to the commander in chief. What is possibly happening is that the Armed Forces are feeling a bit pressured by all the publications made by the press, which apparently seek to tarnish the military institution. That could have been the origin of this communique," the defense minister explained.

Souto Hernandez said that the military commanders' support for Rodriguez, expressed through the communique, is something that has always existed. "The publication of this support is a form of ratifying a position that has always been expressed toward the commander in chief. It is nothing else but repeating the words one says continuously," he said.

When it was pointed out that the communique emerges precisely when there are accusations against some military chiefs who are reportedly involved in the traffic of stolen automobiles to Bolivia, and that General Lino Cesar Oviedo had decided to make changes in the border cavalry detachments for an all-out battle against corruption, the defense minister said: "Unfortunately, I am not very well aware of that situation. I have not talked about this issue with any general of the Armed Forces. Moreover, I am not aware of this situation because I am not within the circle that handles the military institution, or in the chain of command."

Concerning the changes made by General Oviedo, Souto Hernandez said that he probably received instructions from the commander in chief to do what he did, without previously consulting the Army commander. "This is normal within the Armed Forces. Later General Oviedo will probably inform his direct superior. There is no need to give much importance to this matter," he said.

Concerning rumors of a possible coup d'etat, the defense minister said: "For me it is a surprise to learn about this rumor; besides, I do not believe that anything of this nature can happen. I do not see why or for what reason a coup d'etat would be carried out. I understand that regardless of the problems we are conducting this democratic process very well."

He explained further that if there is agitation within the Armed Forces it is probably due to the publications made in the press, "which we consider unjust because of their generalization, because not everyone in the Armed Forces is corrupt," he said.

General Launches Anticorruption Campaign

PY1709165792 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 Sep 92 pp 2, 3

[Text] It was confirmed yesterday that there has been intense activity in the three Cavalry divisions of the 1st Army Corps commanded by Division General Lino Cesar Oviedo Silva.

According to confirmed reports, Division Gen. Oviedo ordered a large anticorruption campaign at the national level, and it has been implemented since yesterday by the several cavalry detachments at the country's most important border crossings.

The operation began with the replacement of all the border detachment commanders. These commanders were transferred to Asuncion and the seat of their respective divisions to receive new commissions. The border detachment commanders were replaced by other officers and, in most cases, by higher-ranking officers.

For example, in Capitan Bado, the detachment commander was Captain Julio Bordon. He was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Fermin Martinez, known as an intransigent military man who has received strict orders to end all criminality.

The Capitan Bado detachment also was considerably reinforced. It used to have only one captain, three sergeants, and 20 cavalrymen. However, a military truck arrived there yesterday with 40 more cavalrymen, three lieutenants, and six sergeants. This means that the Capitan Bado detachment is now made up of approximately one lieutenant colonel, three lieutenants, nine sergeants, and 60 cavalrymen.

The vast operation against corruption ordered by Gen. Oviedo affects the country's most important border crossings, where the large military detachments attached to the 1st Army Corps are located.

The following are the detachments where changes are taking place and reinforcements are being sent: the Vista Alegre (Puente Remanso) Detachment, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division; the Pedro Juan Caballero, Capital Bado, San Carlos (where new buildings and running water for the troops and civilians will be dedicated before the month's end), and Bella Vista detachments, attached to the 2d Cavalry Division, 1st Army Corps, based in Concepcion. All these crossings except for San Carlos del Apa are along the long dry border with Brazil. They are all located opposite important Brazilian cities.

The other border detachments where changes are taking place are attached to the 3d Cavalry Division based in

Curuguaty. They are: the Ciudad del Este, Salto del Guaira, Corpus, and Ype Jhu detachments.

According to reliable sources, the anticorruption campaign implemented by Gen. Oviedo will affect the whole Republic, and in the first stage it allegedly will affect the police and authorities in charge of border control, customs offices, ports, forestry services; police, especially rural police stations; and police organizations in charge of repressing smuggling and drug trafficking.

Besides reinforcing these posts, personnel from the SENAD-DINAR [National Antidrug Secretariat-National Narcotics Directorate] and Police Identification units (to issue identification documents for those who do not have them) also were sent to the detachments.

According to the sources from the detachments, this national operation against corruption was launched by Division Gen. Oviedo as a result of the situation created by the accusations involving high-ranking military officers in car-trafficking activities to Bolivia, among other crimes.

It has been learned that this campaign includes more projects to eradicate the serious problem of corruption at all levels.

'Sudden Changes' Protested

PY1709181192 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 17 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] In view of the announcement that the 1st Army Corps, commanded by General Lino Oviedo, has started a vast anticorruption campaign that includes sudden changes in border garrison commanders, Army Commander General Humberto Garcete stated that the Armed Forces commander in chief is the only person who orders changes. "Tell him that this was said by the Army commander in chief," Garcete said just before slamming his car door, thus cutting of the dialogue with reporters. The interview unfolded in the following manner:

[NOTICIAS] General, these changes that have been announced by the press, are they normal?

[Garcete] What changes...?

[NOTICIAS] The changes that have been announced by the press....

[Garcete] Who announced them?

[NOTICIAS] It was published today (yesterday) in NOTICIAS.

[Garcete] Today... changes, the commander in chief is the only person who can make changes. The commander in chief commands the Armed Forces; tell him that this was said by the Army commander in chief.

[NOTICIAS] In other words, the commander... (at this point he abruptly cuts off the reporter's question).

[Garcete] The Army... the Army commander in chief affirms and reaffirms that the commander in chief is the only commander of the Armed Forces.

[NOTICIAS] Therefore, the commander of the 1st Army Corps does not have any attributions?

[Garcete] He has his corps. And I command 1st Corps, 2d Corps, and 3d Corps.

[NOTICIAS] Can you give us a brief explanation?

[Garcete] You know very well; don't be silly fools... [preceding words in Guarani] (at this point he slammed the door and left the Military College in Capiata in his car).

Judge Summons Gonzalez; Arrests Officers

PY1809154692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Sep 92 p 4

[Excerpt] Judge Angel Barchini yesterday ordered the arrest of Lieutenant Lino Riguelme and NCO Miliciades Lopez, who were on duty at the Infante Rivarola fort, in the Chaco region, where the trafficking of stolen cars to Bolivia allegedly took place. Judge Barchini also ordered the arrest of Juan de Dios Martinez and Carlos Manuel Maggi Rolon, who allegedly are involved in the trafficking of stolen cars. Barchino also summoned Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas to testify in court to ratify the crimes he publicly reported. Meanwhile, a military judge ordered the imprisonment of Col. Gonzalez Rojas because he found evidence that Col. Gonzalez Rojas committed slander against four active-duty generals. [passage omitted]

Detention Now 'Imprisonment'

PY1809144692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Sep 92 p 5

[Excerpt] A military trial judge turned the preventive detention of Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas into imprisonment, arguing that his decision is based on the existence of "semi-conclusive evidence" of the charges of slander allegedly committed by Gonzalez Rojas against four active duty generals.

The military trial judge made this decision after hearing the testimony of Colonels Cirilo R. Velazquez, Oscar Shulz, and Francisco Ledesma.

In the report presented by Col. Velazquez, Col. Gonzales Rojas, who currently is detained in the Presidential Guard unit, is accused of having involved Generals Humberto Ramon Garcete, Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena, Marino Gonzalez Caceres, and Regis Anibal Romero Espinola in the trafficking of stolen cars. [passage omitted]

Colonel Gonzalez's Lawyer Answers Charges

PY1709223292 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0321 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Interview with Colonel Luis Gonzalez Rojas' lawyer Hermes Rafael Saguier and Deputy Francisco Jose de Vargas, Authentic Radical Liberal Party representative in the Chamber of Deputies Illegal Activities Investigating Committee, by Benjamin Fernandez; from the program "In Detail"—live]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez] Good evening, Mr. Saguier, welcome.

[Saguier] Thank you.

[Fernandez] Deputy Francisco Jose de Vargas, member of the Illegal Activities Investigating Committee, good evening.

[Vargas] Good evening.

[Fernandez] Hermes Rafael Saguier, you heard General Humberto Garcete. What is your opinion now?

[Saguier] First, I would demand the same amount of time given to him. You cannot give the accuser one hour and the defense five minutes. It is unfair. I feel very uncomfortable because of this unfair treatment. I should have been told that this was the way the program worked. Well, I will try to do the most with what little time I have.

Gen. Garcete has not told the truth, to put it mildly, from practically the beginning to the end. He said that the Army was interested—that he was interested—in investigating this situation. I have testimony from Division General Ocampos stating that the report written by Colonel Luis Gonzalez Rojas does not have enough importance for a more thorough inquiry, and that it deserves mere disciplinary action. You can read it yourself. It is marked between these two points.

[Fernandez, reading] Considering the origin of the incident that is being investigated, and after analyzing the facts, this court concludes that even though those who testified recognized some responsibility in letting vehicles with doubful origin pass, it is also true that there is no corpus delicti or other element to prove the crime of car trafficking. It is also important to state that the individuals mentioned here as drivers of such vehicles are civilians, and are therefore outside military jurisdiction. The personnel involved could only be charged with negligence during service, and suffer disciplinary punishment.

[Saguier] This is the first mistake, to call it something. Gen. Garcete said there was conclusive evidence that Col. Gonzalez Rojas committed slander. But here we have the testimony of two officers who accompanied him saying that Col. Gonzalez never mentioned the four generals cited by Col. Velazquez. The document is signed by Captain Garcete and Lieutenant Julio Gonzalez.

Gen. Garcete said he was surprised by Col. Gonzalez's refusal to continue working with the officers assigned to the investigation by the 3d Army Corps. The reason was very simple. There was strong evidence showing that these officers were forging the report. Here you can read the testimony of one of the persons affected by such forgery. His testimony was handed to Col. Gonzalez Rojas. This document shows that his testimony was totally distorted.

[Fernandez] Who signed the document? Let us see.... Milciades Lopez Florentin, infantry sergeant.

[Saguier] No, he is an infantry lieutenant.

[Fernandez] I beg your pardon, I could not see clearly. He is an infantry lieutenant.

[Saguier] In sum, this is what happened: Col. Gonzalez Rojas discovered an illegal activity, as was confirmed by Gen. Garcete. He reported it to his superior. Gen. Garcete ordered him to make a report. When he began writing the report a Capt. Mercado said to him: Colonel, others before you have tried to do what you are doing, but they were forced to retire.

But Col. Gonzalez continued investigating, until we had this incident. He requested the help of officers from other units. He was offered the help of 1st Army Corps officers. The report thus produced involved various officers, including two generals, one of them in active duty, Enciso [3d Infantry Division Commander Aladino M. Enciso]. But nothing was done against them. Enciso today continues to command troops. He is accused of being a partner of car traffickers. The accusation is signed by a colonel, a member of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Garcete did not do anything about it. The report was published by ABC COLOR, but today Brigadier Gen. Enciso continues to be a division commander. This is the present situation in the Army. When the general says we want to investigate, he is not telling the truth. Col. Gonzalez Rojas took the precaution of making two copies of the report, because he knew his career would be cut short. When he was notified that he was being replaced—he was replaced before anything was published—he said: That is all right, it is the commander's prerogative to replace me, but no one has the prerogative to end this investigation. I demand that you continue this investigation.

[Fernandez] Deputy de Vargas, you know the military. Last year you took a course at the National War School. What does all this show you?

[Vargas] I would like to comment about some of Gen. Garcete's remarks. Gen. Garcete said it was curious to note that the four accused generals were pillars of the

transition process. [passage omitted]. But this does not mean that they are untouchable, that they can violate the law.

Gen. Garcete made two very surprising comments in front of the television cameras. He said: When the three of us were at my offices I called Col. Gonzalez Rojas and told him: These two individuals are traffickers, and I forbid them to go to your area, adding, I forbid them to set foot in the Chaco. Those were his words. But Fernandez, no one has the authority to violate the law, not even an Army commander or the president of the Republic. According to the Penal Code Gen. Garcete had to immediately report to the criminal justice that he had knowledge that a crime had been committed, and that these individuals were responsible for the crime. Secondly, the Constitution does not give him the authority to forbid anyone from traveling to the Chaco, not even if he is a criminal. [passage omitted]

[Saguier] [passage omitted] We will have to include this in the case, because Gen. Garcete has become an accessory to car traffickers who are possible murderers.

[Fernandez] Why?

[Saguier] Because he cannot have at his side two individuals who admit to being partners of criminals who traffic in cars and who are possibly accomplices of murderers—because in many cases of stolen cars people were killed—and then allow them to leave. This admission has to be added to the report. [passage omitted]

Gen. Garcete knows that the accused generals, Carrillo [Brig. Gen. Lorenzo Carrillo Melo] and Enciso, have a bad reputation. The have a bad reputation within the Armed Forces. He knows that. There is a report in which Armed Forces personnel say that Gen. Aladino Enciso told one of the sergeants: You are going to charge $50 for each vehicle that is allowed to pass, your commander will charge $100, and I will take care of the traffickers in Asuncion.

[Fernandez] This was said by general...

[Saguier] This was said by Gen. Aladino Enciso, according to the testimony of an Armed Forces officer whose statement is part of the investigation. But this man continues commanding a division. A man who is accused of slandering a chief is placed under arrest because his actions jeopardize Armed Forces security.

[Fernandez] Who said that his actions jeopardize the Armed Forces security?

[Saguier] Gen. Garcete said so much here moments ago. Garcete said that Col. Gonzalez distributed secret documents. We have to understand that the documents on corruption were secret. It is clear that those documents were secret for Paraguayans, because they wanted to handle them as they saw fit. [passage omitted]

Senator Asks to Question Defense Minister

PY1709192692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Sep 92 p 5

[Text] By virtue of Article 193 of the national Constitution, Colorado Senator Carlos Romero Pereira requested the questioning of Defense Minister General Angel Souto Hernandez. His request will be filed during today's Senate session, and Senator Romero Pereira will ask that it be held on the Senate floor within five days.

The following are the 17 questions asked by Romero Pereira:

1. Does the defense minister have the power to proceed in cases when on-duty Armed Forces officers are publicly accused of crimes?

2. Does the defense minister have the power to impose discipline, corrective, and/or preventive measures in cases of crimes that have been publicly reported as being committed by Armed Forces members?

3. Has the defense minister been informed about the trafficking of stolen cars from Paraguay to Bolivia? If he has, how and when did he learn about it? And what did he do about it?

4. Is the defense minister aware of the relations between civilians Juan de Dios Martinez, Roberto Caceres, and Carlos Manuel Maggi Rolon, who are involved in the illegal trafficking of stolen cars, with Generals Lorenzo Carrillo Melo, Emilio Balbuena, and Aladino Enciso?

5. Does the defense minister know that Roberto Caceres and Juan de Dios Martinez, charged with trafficking of stolen cars, are friends of General Humberto Garcete and that they are under his protection?

6. What decision did the defense minister make in the face of the public charges of corruption (trafficking of stolen cars, smuggling, cattle theft) that affect some Armed Forces generals as perpetrators or accomplices?

7. What are the real and/or false facts of the crimes involving military chiefs that were announced and published by the newspaper ABC COLOR?

8. In the face of the accusations, including the names of civilians involved, has the defense minister ordered an investigation of the activities of Juan de Dios Martinez, Roberto Caceres, and Carlos Manuel Maggi Rolon regarding the trafficking of stolen cars with the complicity of military chiefs in the Chaco region?

9. Has the Army Intelligence Service informed the Defense Ministry about the trafficking of stolen cars to the border with Bolivia?

10. Has the Defense Ministry been informed of the report of corruption in the Army made by Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas? In case it has, what action was taken after the report?

11. As defense minister have you been informed by the Army commander about the charges of corruption against Armed Forces members? In case you have not, does this omission, negligence, or concealment deserve a sanction? In case it does, what is the sanction? Has the Army commander been sanctioned?

12. Were Gens. Lorenzo Carrillo Melo, Aladino Enciso, and Emilio Balbuena investigated after they were accused of being involved in the trafficking of stolen cars?

13. Does the Army Intelligence Service know whether the cars were stolen in Brazil, Paraguay, or some other country?

14. Does the defense minister know how long the trafficking of stolen cars to Bolivia has been practiced?

15. Does the defense minister think the referent crimes that were publicly reported deserve to be considered sufficiently shameful in order to adopt drastic measures to seek the moralization of the Army?

16. Please state whether the current Army commander, when he was commander of the Chaco region, was involved in irregular activities such as the trafficking of stolen cars to Bolivia?

17. Please report on the declaration of assets of Gens. Garcete, Enciso, and Balbuena, including their bank accounts in Paraguay, as well as the bank accounts of their wives and children.

Peru

Guzman Claims 'Political Prisoner' Status

PA1809035992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman has been under arrest at the Counterterrorism National Directorate, Dincote, for five days. Guzman and his accomplices have been subject to intensive interrogation. Top security measures continue in areas surrounding the police headquarters.

On the afternoon of 16 September, Guzman met for 15 minutes with Alfredo Crespo Castillo, president of the so-called Association of Democratic Lawyers. Guzman is feeling well, is in good health, and eats his meals normally.

[Begin Crespo recording] I informed him of my professional activities with regard to his defense, stressing the fact that I still do not have a specific position on which the defense strategy will be based, as I had to talk to him first before making any decision. He told me we would discuss the matter later, but that he already considers himself a political prisoner, and that the process against him is political. That is all he told me. [end recording]

The meeting was held amid strict security measures, which are still being firmly implemented in the areas adjacent to the police complex where Guzman is detained.

Although the defense has denied it, the 20 detainees, who cannot see each other, are being interrogated simultaneously.

Appears 'Talkative'

PA1709201192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1723 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Lima, 17 Sep (EFE)—Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman appeared lucid and talkative during the preliminary police interrogation, although he is physically weak and suffers from more than one disease, one police source has reported.

Guzman, also known as Comrade Gonzalo, is being interrogated at the Counterterrorism National Directorate [Dincote] of the Peruvian police, which arrested him at midnight on 12 September in a bloodless raid in the Lima neighborhood of Surquillo.

"Guzman willingly answers all questions. He likes very much to talk and could spend many hours talking," a Dincote officer said. He added: "The purpose of the interrogation is to learn in detail Shining Path's organization. This is not an easy task because Guzman is skillful, however, we are getting something out of him indirectly."

Although the source did not name the interrogators, the newspapers reported they are "a team of officers and intelligence and psychology experts," headed by the Dincote head himself, General Antonio Vidal. The team is supervised by an unidentified prosecutor.

According to the same source, Guzman was given a thorough medical examination at the police hospital. It was determined he is "weak and sickly," but his mind is "extremely lucid."

In addition to psoraisis, which everyone knew he had for years, his right leg is slightly longer than his left leg. He also suffers from high blood pressure and arthritis.

"The problem with his legs causes him to limp, forces him to wear an orthopedic shoe, and has given him trouble in his back," the source added.

The source also said it was very painful for Guzman to undergo the odontography test at the hospital. "He could not open his mouth because of pain in his jaw area."

The EXPRESO newspaper reported on 17 September that when the interrogation started three days ago, the first person who spoke with the Maoist guerrilla was Vidal. The first thing Vidal asked him was how did Guzman explain his capture considering his organization always boasted of having "a thousand eyes and

ears." According to the newspaper, Guzman answered that such a statement "naturally does not have an absolute value."

Guzman also admitted his arrest would cause confusion in Shining Path but added that the leadership would soon be reorganized "and the revolution will continue forward."

Since Guzman was arrested, the police have arrested at least 100 members of the organization, including some who appear to be leaders and "midlevel officials." The police, however, did not specify if the arrests were made as the consequence of Comrade Gonzalo's interrogation.

The Peruvian security forces initiated an unprecedented antiterrorist offensive after Guzman was arrested. This offensive, according to Police Chief General Adolfo Cuba y Escobedo, will continue "relentlessly" for the next few days.

Guzman was captured more than 12 years after the beginning of his "popular war," which has killed thousands of people and caused losses amounting to more than $20 billion as the result of sabotage.

Guzman must also account for the displacement of some 200,000 families, who fled the Shining Path violence that devastated their villages in the Andes. These families had to live in subhuman conditions in shanty towns in the periphery of coastal cities. There are thousands of maimed people and thousands of orphans.

Drug Trafficking Reduced After Guzman's Arrest

PA1809041592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The arrest of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman has significantly reduced drug trafficking activities in the Amazon region, police sources reported on 17 September. The Colombian drug cartels have considerably reduced clandestine flights of light aircraft to purchase basic cocaine paste in the Peruvian jungle.

Police Director on Prevention of Rebels' Escape

PA1709195392 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The National Police are coordinating with its counterparts in neighboring countries to prevent the escape of subversives. This was announced by General Adolfo Cuba y Escobedo, general director of the National Police. Cuba y Escobedo also reported on the recent operations conducted in several parts of Lima, which he described as successful.

[Begin recording] [Cuba y Escobedo] The interrogation procedures the Dincote [Counterterrorism National Directorate] is carrying out are unfolding normally. Any speculation in that regard is unfounded.

[Unidentified Reporter] General, (?what do you believe Shining Path will do) following the capture of Abimael Guzman? Do you fear a violent reaction over the next few days?

[Cuba y Escobedo] I will reiterate what our president said: We can expect any reaction resulting from the organization or disorganization of the Shining Path at present. We are adopting measures against this.

[Reporter] General, in response to Abimael Guzman's capture, will policemen's salaries be increased or will they get a special bonus?

[Cuba y Escobedo] That issue should not necessarily govern our actions. I hope, as the government has offered, that as the national economy improves so will policemen's salaries.

[Reporter] Will Peru offer advice on terrorism to international police for cases such as Spain and the IRA?

[Cuba y Escobedo] If necessary, why not? The efficiency demonstrated by our Dincote proves what they can do to support other people.

[Reporter] Daniel Espichan, the special prosecutor for terrorist crimes, says that Dr. Angel Crespo, Abimael Guzman's attorney, may also be involved in terrorism and the police should investigate him. Will such an investigation be carried out, sir?

[Cuba y Escobedo] In reality Dr. Crespo, a member of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, is already defending certain terrorism cases. According to the latest regulations, each attorney can defend a maximum of one case. Special Prosecutor Espichan has clearly pointed out the interest that some attorneys seem to have in defending these terrorism cases and their possible ties to the movement.

[Reporter] Will an investigation be carried out, sir, to see if Crespo has been involved in terrorism?

[Cuba y Escobedo] You can rest assured that at present all individuals who are proven to have ties with terrorism are being investigated and will continue to be investigated by the police. [end recording]

Government Locates Shining Path Representatives

PA1809123792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente on 17 September confirmed that more than 55 of the so-called Shining Path ambassadors in other countries have been located by the government. De la Puente said efforts are being stepped up and coordinated for their extradition.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] Joint actions are being coordinated with immigration officials to contact the appropriate authorities in the countries where these persons operate so we may investigate their credentials, the type of passport they carry, and the positions they

have, either using an alias or using forged papers—which abound. We will first prepare a list of the persons and we will later add the names of any others who carry out missions abroad.

[Unidentified reporter] Are there any more names?

[De la Puente] We now have more names to add to the list made public by the president on 16 September.

[Reporter] Do you have an approximate number?

[De la Puente] More than 55 persons—from the original list of 40 persons given by the president.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, will an attorney general be appointed given the government claims it has enough evidence to accuse those persons?

[De la Puente] Yes. A coordination meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry with the prosecutor general, the Supreme Court of Justice president, the acting justice minister, and the president of the Supreme Militry Justice Council to coordinate actions with all the sectors involved in the case, adopt a joint position, and carry out procedures so extradition requests may be filed for the persons who currently are abroad. This way they will be brought to court as soon as possible and they will be charged with terrorism. [end recording]

Opposition Congratulates Police on Guzman Arrest

PA1809123292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Opposition political parties on 17 September congratulated the police and the chief of the Counterterrorism National Directorate, Dincote, for the recent arrest of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman. A communique was issued after a meeting held on 17 September.

The opposition political parties congratulated Dincote for the arrest of Shining Path top leader Abimael Guzman in a communiqnc issued jointly through their representatives, who met to discuss various subjects of national interest. They agreed that the government should not use the blow against subversion for political or election purposes.

[Begin recording] [Former Senator Alberto Borea] First of all, we want to congratulate the Dincote and its chief, General Antonio Quetin Vidal Herrera, for the arrest of Abimael Guzman, which has been sought in the country for a long time, for the benefit of the nation. This arrest shows that police action to defeat terrorism within the framework of the Contitution and respect for human rights is always positive.

[Former Senator Enrique Bernales] I believe it will depend on everyone's effort—the Armed Forces, police, government political parties, the media—to make of this arrest the beginning of the end, in other words the defeat of the terrorist movement, and, logically, an accelerated peace process. [end recording]

Spanish Ambassador Comments on Shining Path

PA1709125292 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Spanish Ambassador to Peru Nabor Garcia has denied that his country is providing asylum to persons linked to terrorism, and pointed out the Madrid police are adopting measures to put an end to the activities of the Shining Path.

The diplomat pointed out that Spain has provided asylum to several Peruvians who are fleeing from the terrorist violence, including the family of Maria Elena Moyano, the late leader of Villa El Salvador.

Meanwhile, Hector Cavada, the Peruvian charge d'affaires in Denmark, said there are practically no Shining Path members in that country, adding that there are only a few who came from Sweden. Hector Cavada noted that the local press points out the Shining Path is a group that has no support from the people and is financed by narcotics trafficking.

Another report says that former foreign minister Javier Arias Stella has recommended accelerating the judiciary cases of those who spread terrorist ideas abroad, so that once the sentence has been announced, these persons can be extradited. The former foreign minister proposed the executive branch continue with a program on a government-to-government basis or through the embassies for disseminating the true image of the terrorist groups that exist in the country.

Spain, UK Envoys Cited

PA1709163392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Spanish and British ambassadors in Lima referred to the so-called Shining Path ambassadors in Europe after President Alberto Fujimori publicly reported that more than 70 Peruvians collect funds for this terrorist organization through cover organizations. Spanish Ambassador Nabor Garcia y Garcia said: Our two countries signed a bilateral extradition treaty in 1899. This treaty will be invoked if necessary.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will these individuals be deported?

[Garcia y Garcia] The police will conduct the corresponding investigation. If they are found guilty of violating Spanish law, they will be punished according to Spanish law. If the Peruvian Government decides to take legal action against them, then they will be deported. Bear in mind that some of those who might have proselytized to some extent in Spain could be illegal immigrants. In such cases, these persons will be deported immediately.

[British Ambassador Donald Keith Haskell] Although my country and Peru do not have an extradition treaty, we could accept and consider such a request. The final decision, however, rests with the British courts.

[Reporter] What does your government think about the activities of these Peruvians residing in the United Kingdom? Is there any sympathy for them?

[Keith Haskell] No, absolutely not. The British Government belongs very much to the British people. It is rather a matter of whether or not a person has violated British law or Peruvian law. We need a Peruvian Government's request to consider expelling a Peruvian from British territory. Without such a request, we can do nothing. Even the British Government is under British law. [end recording]

MRTA Guerrillas Captured in Junin Department

PA1709214692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2204 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] National Police General Luis Rios y Almeida has presented a group of Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement terrorists who operated for the last three years in Pichacani, Pozuzo, Villa Rica, San Ramon, Oxapampa, and other small towns in the La Merced area.

This group was very active. It had command over 11 annihilation commandos and carried out actions against private and public property.

We must report that General Luis Rios y Almeida presented each member of this group. Two young women, approximately aged 18 or 19, formed part of the group. They participated in a number of subversive activities, mainly in the country's central jungle area in Oxapampa Province, Pasco Department, and in Chanchamayo and Satipo Provinces in Junin Department.

We have received reports that police continue to work in coordination with the Armed Forces' (Oyantaitambo) Engineering Battalion to disband a number of subversive cells that have been acting against the people in the area. [passage omitted]

According to a statement by the National Police chief, the arrested rebels were chiefs of the work platoons. This means that at least 11 cells were operating in the area. These cells have been disbanded as a result of the capture or arrest of these rebels, who are now being interrogated and who will later be handed over to the courts.

Terrorists, Soldiers Clash in San Marcos

PA1809044492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Subversive slogans were painted on the walls of the University of San Marcos. There was a shoot-out between the Army and suspected rebels, which resulted in one student wounded and three arrested.

Five days after Abimael Guzman Reynoso's arrest, terrorists who have infiltrated that university painted slogans at the Mechanical Engineering School, forcing the Army members who are stationed there to intervene quickly. Five students were located in the library, where they hid at the time of the shoot-out, and were taken to the Army base on the university campus. They were released after the director of university welfare intervened on their behalf.

According to witnesses, terrorists painted slogans on 16 September, but were repelled by students. They returned on 17 September to take revenge. The soldiers intervened when they learned of their presence. The rebels replied with gunfire, which led to a fierce shoot-out in which a student was accidentally wounded in the neck.

Three of the rebels were arrested and taken to the General Intelligence Directorate.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Army officer, broadcast in progress] ...that is impossible, the university is too big, but we have made some arrests.

[Unidentified Reporter] Did you catch them with weapons?

[Officer] They had paint in their hands. They were painting. [end recording]

Bolona on IMF Approval of Economic Program

PA1709125192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] More good news for our country: Economy Minister Carlos Bolona announced on 16 September the IMF approved the goals and results of the Peruvian economic program for the first semester of 1992 and the goals of the fiscal, monetary, and reserve programs for the second semester of 1992. The economy minister said this is a great development that could lead multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to disburse credits quickly.

During a speech at a forum of chambers of commerce, Bolona said in an optimistic tone that credits should arrive in our country before the end of year or before (?mid-) November. He described this as a challenge.

Bolona talked about his visit to the Paris Club where he will meet with finance ministers of Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. He estimated September inflation will be between 2.6 and 3 percent:

[Begin Bolona recording] I think it is a very positive development that the IMF approved the accumulation of payment rights and drawing rights for the second trimester and approved the guidelines and goals for the second semester. Most importantly, the expenditure levels we proposed for the second semester were approved. The reduction of a number of antitechnical taxes was also approved, as well as certain issuance goals that were expanded when we negotiated with (?Med). I think it is very important these were approved today, 16 September. [end recording]

Economists, businessmen, and workers welcomed Minister Bolona's announcement on the IMF's approval of the economic program:

[Begin recording] [Juan Aguirre, president of National Confederation of Private Business] We are on the right path—we are on the path of the international monetary order that will certainly help us obtain funds, loans, and investments, which we need very badly.

[Pablo Checa, leader of General Confederation of Peruvian Workers] I think it would have been an outrage if it was not approved after the Peruvian people made so many sacrifices. I think the main problem will come in December because we have to devise a plan to pay in 1993.

[Rafael Villegas, former president of the National Confederation of Private Business] It is very encouraging because we at least have some hope for the future although we have a very strong recession. The capture of Abimael Guzman and the IMF approval, which are completely different developments, are positive signs for a possible recovery of the country that we want so much.

[Unidentified speaker] I think by accomplishing our goals in the first semester and that our goals for the second semester were approved—should Peru manage to achieve these goals—we will pay our debts with the IMF by January and this will improve Peru's international image, because we will have the support of the IMF. The international financial community places great value in this support. [end recording]

Venezuela

Perez Sees 'Bleak Crisis' If No Tax Approval

PA1809022992 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez said that if Congress does not approve the tax laws swiftly, Venezuela will face very serious times. Here is President Perez:

[Begin Perez recording] The people are asking for public works, they are asking for more services, but there is no money. Petroleum does not cover the nation's needs as it did in the past, and this is our sole source of income. We are unique in the world, a nation that pretends to live off a nonrenewable natural resource. All the nations in the world base their economic sovereignty on what each citizen pays, on the taxes paid by their citizens. In Venezuela, either the taxes are implemented or this nation will undergo a truly dramatic and bleak crisis. [end recording]

President Perez made his remarks during a visit to El Lara State, where he inaugurated the fifth water pumping station, El Tocuyo, which will benefit El Lara State's rural towns and communities. This public works project cost 200 million bolivares. With this investment, the water problem in El Lara State will be solved until the Yacambo project, scheduled for 1996, is completed.

Socialist Leader Requests Perez Impeachment

PA1809030892 Paris AFP in Spanish 1648 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Caracas, 17 Sep (AFP)—Enrique Ochoa Antich, a Venezuelan Socialist leader, formally asked the Attorney General's Office to impeach President Carlos Andres Perez, a source from that government branch, which ensures compliance with the law, reported on 17 September.

Enrique Ochoa, brother of Foreign Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich, retired, who is a former defense minister, heads the human rights group in the opposition's Movement Toward Socialism (MAS).

Ochoa has charged President Perez with six crimes: violation of human rights, illegal enrichment, influence peddling, impunity, libeling the Armed Forces, and actions against freedom of expression.

Retired Military Call For Perez Term Reduction

PA1809132992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2359 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Caracas, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 50 retired military officers, including 26 generals, warned on 16 September that there is a persistent inability to govern Venezuela and called on Congress to reduce President Carlos Andres Perez' term to overcome the current crisis.

The retired military issued a document in which they indicate that seven months have elapsed since the foiled coup d'etat (4 February 1992) and "you can sense a great frustration and anguish in Venezuela because the government has not complied with its commitments."

The document, which is a "socio-political study of the current situation," asserts the "Red Flag" rebel group is organizing armed urban groups "to promote riots by grassroots sectors, similar to the ones in February 1989," where 300 people died.

In addition, there are announcements that new street protests will take place as soon as school classes are resumed this week.

The retired military personnel stated that any possibility of a new military uprising has to be subdued "because Venezuela will plunge into a civil war if this should happen."

"The Venezuelan community has learned" that the Armed Forces discipline, obedience, and subordination has deteriorated, especially in the Army as it was the only corps in the institution to participate in the February coup attempt, the document observes.

The socio-political study adds that it will be difficult to use military force to control public order alterations due to the deteriorated situation in the Armed Forces.

Based on such circumstances—the document also includes the fact that the coupist Bolivarian 200 Revolutionary Movement has notified that the deadline to reach a peaceful solution of the crisis has terminated—the 52 military officers, who signed the document, call on Congress to find a solution to the crisis.

Two articles in the retired military personnel's study emphasize the serious Venezuelan situation and warn of an "imminent" disaster if massive street protests, such as the 1989 protests against President Perez' severe economic policies, take place.

The military demand the reduction of the current constitutional term, scheduled to last until 1994, and that the general elections be held in December 1992, one year ahead of time.

"Thus, together we will avoid a civil war," the retired military document asserts.

Supreme Court Rules on Cuntrera Case

PA1809005892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice has issued a ruling on the Cuntrera family case. It denied reports that the Italian Government had, on several occasions, requested the extradition of the three brothers. The deportation of the three brothers has shaken public opinion for several days now. The most serious effect is that this event will have unforeseeable consequences in Venezuela. Apparently, false information or speculation indicated that the Italian authorities had requested on three separate occasions that Venezuelan justice send back to Italy the drug trafficking trio of Paolo, Pasquale, and Gaspare Cuntrera. Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, said that only one such request had been received by the bench.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] That is correct. The court did receive one request for all the Cuntrera brothers, including Gaspare and Paolo Cuntrera. The Italian Government expressly revoked that extradition request. In view of this, the court declared the motion closed and, therefore, believes it has no need to issue any further rulings on the matter. [end recording]

Bank Account Frozen

PA1809014592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The first legal act in the case against the Cuntrera family took place on 17 September. Judge Carlos Enrique Pena of the 35th Criminal Court issued a court order freezing a bank account in the national financial system that belongs to the Cuntrera family. The account contains 30 million bolivares.

Judge Carlos Enrique Pena executed the order after receiving a request from the Organized Crime Division of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ]. He explained that despite not presiding over the case, judges must carry out such requests by the police officials. The 35th Criminal Court judge pointed out that the action against the bank account does not mean the government can dispose of its funds, as a competent court must first decide whether or not the money is the product of criminal activities. Also found at the same bank were several certificates of deposit from a bank in Aruba worth $218,000, which the Cuntrera family will not be able to cash.

[Begin Pena recording] As this or any other measures are requested or deemed necessary during the investigation, this and any other court will execute them. Allow me to say, though, that I carried out this act after receiving a request from the PTJ Organized Crime Division, and the order will be entered into the case record at the presiding court, which is the 26th Criminal Court. [end recording]

These legal actions, which are now in the hands of Judge Carlos Enrique Pena, will move on to the 26th Criminal Court, which has been investigating the Cuntrera brothers for several years.

Army Discharges Colonels for Supporting Coupists

PA1709131792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1412 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Caracas, 16 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The local media have reported the Venezuelan Army discharged two colonels for conducting activities supporting the participants of the February coup attempt.

The measure was issued following an internal investigation that uncovered "acts involving lack of discipline." Mario Guanare, former deputy director of Yare Prison where the coupists are being held, and Jose Aello, who gathered signatures in favor of an amnesty law for the rebels, were discharged.

The Army, the only military branch that participated in the foiled coup, stated the punishment "must be exemplary for any soldier at the service of the Republic because they must not participate in activities that jeopardize the Armed Forces' seriousness, responsibility, and dignity."

Army Commander Pedro Rangel explained that Guanare had posters and photographs of rebel leader Hugo Chavez autographed to distribute among visitors and "admirers" of the military officer.

The punishment against Guanare was disclosed two weeks ago after a military judge prohibited the transmission of a televised interview with Chavez. This interview was inexplicably conducted at that penitentiary, located 60 km from Caracas.

In addition to the interview, Chavez and other lieutenant colonels who led the rebellion made statements to

the media despite the Constitution and the judge in charge of their case banning active officers from making political statements.

Regarding Aello, the army commander said he was collecting signatures from civilian and military personnel of the Defense Ministry requesting the dismissal of the case against the rebels.

The authorities have stated that—aside from isolated desertions by officers at the intermediate level, some of them involving weapons thefts —the situation within the Armed Forces has been normal after the foiled coup. This coup was the most serious incident affecting the country's democratic life in 34 years.

Some 45 officers, including five lieutenant colonels who headed the coup, remain in prison waiting for their trial for rebellion. They could face as many as 30 years in prison for this crime.

This is the first time since February officers with ranks higher than lieutenant colonel have been linked to the coupist leader of the Bolivarian 200 Revolutionary Movement (MBR-200).

Colonels Guanare and Aello, with 19 and 25 years of service, respectively, were discharged but it was not disclosed if they will stand trial.

Police, 200 University Students Clash; 1 Dead

PA1809042392 Paris AFP in Spanish 2158 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Caracas, 17 Sep (AFP)—Some 200 students clashed with police outside the Venezuelan Central University in Caracas on 17 September amid protests called by various popular organizations, student leaders reported.

Demonstrations near the Central University started in the early afternoon to protest the privatization of several utilities, an increase in electricity rates, and an increase in the prices of food and medicine.

The protests, which are scheduled to conclude on the evening of 17 September with the banging of pots and pans, are taking place despite warnings on 16 September by the interior minister that he will stop what he termed a "destabilization attempt."

Three youths were detained in Caracas for distributing leaflets urging citizens to participate in the pot banging, radio stations reported.

Several politicians this week warned there would be strong street agitation after a two-month hiatus in the disturbances that rocked the country during the first part of 1992.

Protests involving students and citizens in general, which are mainly demanding the resignation of President Carlos Andres Perez, have intensified since the 4 February coup attempt.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2226 GMT on 17 September adds: "A university student died of a shot to the face fired by a member of the National Guard (militarized police) on the evening of 17 September in Maracay, 70 km west of Caracas, according to witnesses and press reports. This student, along with dozens of others, was distributing propaganda on antigovernment protests."]